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WORLD SOCCER

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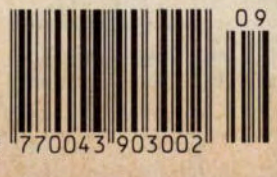
EUROPEAN FIXTURES SPECIAL!

WORLD CUP LATEST

Lessons in style for Waddle and McCarthy



Hysen battles with Arsenal's Paul Merson in the Charity Shield match

Hysen's Wembley warning for a World Cup season

SWEDEN'S Glenn Hysen was the big winner of the Charity Shield curtain-raiser to the new domestic season.

His dominating defensive display in Liverpool's 1-0 victory over Arsenal was a warning of the class and control which faces England as they set out on the last leg of the Road to Rome.

England go to Stockholm on September 6 for a vital World Cup qualifer knowing that their hosts have already forced a goalless draw

Swede

ENGLAND manager Bobby Robson left Stockholm's Rasunda stadium an unhappy man after Sweden's 2-1 victory over Poland last May. "The Swedes have been extremely lucky," Robson said. "They have collected five points from their three qualifying games when it could so easily have been only two."

Olle Nordin's Swedes escaped with a goalless draw at Wembley when Gary Lineker missed a hatful of chances. They 'stole' a 2-1 away victory over Albania in Tirana in spite of being put under heavy siege by the hosts for the best part of the game.

And what about that victory over Poland? Substitute Niclas Larsson drove home the winner in injury time.

The Swedes have consistently missed major international tournaments since the World Cup of 1978 despite building teams capable of beating the best but never winning anything.

For a country of less than eight and a half million inhabitants, Sweden possess a remarkably successful past.

From PENTTI HIETANEN

The hotbed of Swedish game has always been the city of Gothenburg where the origins of the game can be traced back to a club called Lyckans Soldater — The Soldiers of Luck.

During the early years, clubs from Gothenburg were lucky to draft players from the British-born workers living in the city, Orgryte, with ten championships between 1896 and 1909, were famous for their Scottish style.

It was 1896 when the leading clubs of the capital Stockholm, AIK and Djurgarden, took to football. The third biggest city in the country, Malmo were surprisingly slow to catch up. The first club was founded in 1905, while Malmo FF saw the daylight only in 1910, after which they still had to play nearly 30 years second fiddle to IFK Malmo.

The Swedish FA was founded in 1904 and the first full international was on May 12, 1908 in Baldens Hage, Gothenburg, Sweden beat Norway 11-3, but the Olympics in London the same year brought an embarassing 12-1 defeat against England.

Sweden took part for the first time in the World Cup finals in Italy, 1934, beating Argentina 2-1 before going out to Germany.

As one of the countries which did not take part in the second world war, the

at Wembley and possess the talent — in the likes of Hysen., Stromberg, Prytz and Co — to stretch their 1990 World Cup ambitions to the limit.

But Bobby Robson will also go to Stockholm's Rasunda stadium knowing that victory will put them within one certain point of booking those priceless tickets for the finals. England play in Group two.. and not only do the group winners progress to Italy, but so do two of the runners-up from groups one, two and four. The best comparative records will decide: which means points gained then goal difference, then goals scored.

Study the group tables on page 58 of the current issue. The all-important match for England may prove to be on October 11 not England's visit to Poland but the group one Denmark v Rumania clash. Victory for Danes or Rumanians would leave their opponents with a maximum possible eight points. And by then England could already be beyond their (comparative) reach.

The World Cup is a mathematician's dream with such complex numerical comparisons also sorting out second round places in the finals in Italy.

If England appear well on the way to the 'Computer World Cup' then so do SCOTLAND, despite their tough task in Yugoslavia this month and the REPUBLIC OF IRELAND. Jackie Charlton's men do not resume their World Cup campaign until next month's visit to Dublin by Northern Ireland. In the meantime, the North face Hungary in Belfast with both nations looking beyond the 1990 World Cup.

Wales travel to Helsinki on September 6 with a tally of two points from three games hardly likely to scare Finland.

's 'soldiers' to ride their luck

. . . but numbers game looks like a winner for Robson

late 1940's and 1950's may be regarded as the golden period of Swedish football. It was the era of Gunnar Nordahl, Nils Liedholm and Gunnar Gren, of Gre-No-Li fame at Milan, as well as country's own George Best, the wayward 'Nacka' Skoglund.

Sweden won Olympic gold in London 1948 in cavalry style and were good enough to finish third in the World Cup of 1950 even without the celebrated Gre-No-Li trio.

Until 1954 the federation did not approve the selection of players with professional clubs for the national team. That rule was lifted only thanks to some persistent campaigning by the late Eric Persson.

Once Liedholm, Gren and Skoglund returned for Sweden's own World Cup of 1958, silver medals were won, although in the famous final at Rasunda young Pele and Brazil were too brilliant to deny.

The success of the national side meant fat years for local clubs, too, during the 1950's. But interest began to wane as more players were shipped abroad. Malmo FF lost, between 1950

Ollie Nordin

and 1956, no fewer than nine star players — all to Italian clubs.

Since 1958, Sweden appeared three times in the World Cup finals in the 1970's under Georg Ericsson. But the only time they looked like posing a major threat was in West Germany, 1974. The team, which even held Cruyff's Holland to a goalless draw, included such all-time greats as goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstrom, sweeper Bjorn Nordqvist the country's record international player with 115 caps lanky Bosse Larsson in midfield and Ralf Edstrom and Roland Sandberg up front.

Sweden have been in the international wilderness since Ericsson's departure in 1978. His successor, Lars Arnesson, was perhaps too slow to react to the new tactical winds that were blowing from IFK Gothenburg under an ambitious young coach Sven-Goran Eriksson. IFK Gothenburg won the UEFA Cup twice, in 1982 and 1987, employing zonal marking and aggressive 'pressing' tactics.

Yet for years Arnesson preserved the old hat of a libero/man- marking system in defence.

According to Lennartsson, Sweden don't have anyone like that, although Peter Larsson, of Ajax Amsterdam, could perhaps fill the role. Sadly, both Larsson and his Ajax team-mate Stefan Pettersson are doubtful for the England match.

Face value is not all it seems

FIFA'S confirmation of all-seater World Cup-ties from 1992 onwards was no surprise. Events since the edict from the office of general secretary Sepp Blatter have merely underlined the necessity for action rather than words.

Much comment in the English media suggested that the decision was a direct result of the Hillsborough disaster. In fact it had been in the pipeline much longer. Hillsborough is just one event which throws into painful relief the challenge facing soccer authorities in the 1990's.

There have been others; such as the controversy over whether Liberian government officials organised a cover-up following crowd fatalities at an earlier World Cup-tie. Then came the death of Antwerp's Sam Okwariji ten minutes from the end of Nigeria's 1-0 World Cup win over Angola. Okwiriji collapsed from heat exhaustion — the same grim fate which claimed at least five members of the crowd.

The Lagos national stadium has an official capacity of 50,000. Yet an estimated 70,000 fans had forced their way into the ground to see a victory which kept Nigeria's nose in front of Group C rivals Cameroon.

Wherever a large number of people are gathered together there is a risk — whether in an airliner, in a bus or attending a football match.

However assiduously English authorities follow the recommendations of the Taylor Report; however strictly FIFA monitor their World Cup edict; however soccer's developing nations come to grips with crowd control problems . . . the element of risk will remain.

A half-baked attempt to introduce an ID card system in Holland suffered an embarrassing collapse on first outing when both Den Haag and Utrecht officials found they had been outwitted by a lack of willpower combined with a ticket-tout operation.

Now, there is one ill of British sport which remains curiously uncontrolled — whether in soccer, rugby or Wimbledon tennis. In all the welter of legal documents flooding the game no-one has yet detailed measures to curb the ability of ticket owners- handlers to sell, legally, at way above face value.

What vested interests are being protected here, I wonder? not those of the fan in the street, that's for sure.

KEIR RADNEDGE

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WORLD SOCCER

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Controversial Diego Maradona is under fire.

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CHAMPIONS' CUP DRAW

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Malmo v Internazionale
Marseille v Brondby (Den)
Milan v HJK Helsinki
PSV Eindhoven v Luzern
Rangers v Bayern Munich
Rosenborg (Nor) v Mechelen
Ruch Chorzow v CFKA Stedets Sofia
Siliema Wanderers v Nentori
Sparta v Fenerbahce
Spora (Lux) v Real Madrid
Steaua Bucharest v Fram Reykjavik
Tirol v Omonia (Cyp)

(Ties on September 13 and 27)

Marseille bid for more Euro glory

THE value of the European Cup has never been greater. The desire to win the world's most coveted club trophy has become so obsessive that it prompted the likes of Marseille to spend lavishly during the summer in a frenzied attempt to try and supplant Milan as European champions.

When the draw for this season's tournament was made in Geneva on July 12, most of the top names emerged relatively unscathed. Only Rangers and Bayern Munich will feel aggrieved that fate did not deal them a kinder hand.

The pairing of these two constitutes the main tie of the round. Rangers, like Marseille, are prepared to spend, spend, spend, to achieve a similar goal. The controversial signing of Maurice Johnston, the first star Catholic to wear the famous blue jersey, emphasised the point.

Trevor Steven was bought from Everton to add further depth and Rangers look poised to make a major impact in Europe. Bayern, of course, will have other ideas and, reinforced by the arrival of Alan McInally, a £1.1 million buy from Aston Villa, and the accomplished international defender, Jurgen Kohler, bought from Cologne, will be equal to whatever confronts them.

But there is no question that the lion's share of the publicity belonged to the French champions, Marseille. The all-consuming ambition of tycoon president, Bernard Tapie, who owns the city's docks and the TV network, TFI, transform the club in a European power led to a spate of expensive signings.

He strengthened the defence by taking the Brazilian centre back, Mozer from Benfica, and then swooped for Monaco's French international, Amoros. Jean Tigana was persuaded to leave Bordeaux to add vision to the side, while Chris Waddle, of Spurs, at £4.25 million became the fourth most expensive player in history.

Moreover, Tapie has not given up the quest for Diego Maradona. Napoli insist that, despite the offer of $25 million they will not let him go. Maradona, for his part, was reported as saying that: "Something has gone wrong between Napoli and me."

Even without Maradona — and that prospect is not likely — Marseille should be too good for the exciting young Danish champions, Brondby, now coached by Morten Olsen. How Marseille will fare against more quality opposition remains the burning question, however.

Above: Marseille skipper Jean-Pierre Papin (second right) scores their first goal in a 4-1 defeat of Lyon. Left: Euro King Ruud Gullit

The biggest threat will undoubtedly emanate from Milan, which is Europe's football capital at present. And, for only the second time in the competitiion's history, the two clubs from this same city have qualified.

Milan, of course, do so as holders; Inter, as impressive national champions. Milan retain last year's framework, and morale is high after coach Arrigo Sacchi extended his contract umntil 1991.

But of greater significance was to persuade Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten, to stay in Milan for another four years, thus scotching rumours that the latter was about to depart for Barcelona.

Milan begin the defence of the trophy against the Finnish champions, HJK Helsinki, and are likely to enjoy their trip to Scandinavia considerably more than San Siro co-habitant, Inter, who face a testing tie with Sedish champions, Malmo.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni has a formidable squad at his disposal and Inter set a new Italian points record of 58 last season, scored 67 goals and conceded a miserly 16 in 34 games. The West German imports, Brehme and Matthaus had inspired campaigns.

But Trapattoni did not rest on his laurels. So, another West German international, Jurgen Klinsmann was aquired for £1.6 million from Stuttgart,

..., whose limited success at Real Sociedad caught the eye of Real chairman, Ramon Mendoza has inherited an ageing side past its peak, and he will find life in Madrid challenging, but uncomfortable.

Milan cruelly exposed Real's defensive deficiencies in last season's semi-finals and, though the arrival of Argentine defender, Ruggeri will strenghten the rearguard, Mendoza's reticence in releasing veterans Gordillo and Gallego will not enhance their European prospects.

Real should see off Spora Luxembourg with a hatful of goals but, in common with another legendary name, Benfica, of Lisbon, there must be a question mark about their ability to to live with the Milanese giants.

Benfica's dominance of the domestic scene is no guage for the most exalted and testing company they keep in Europe. Defender Mozer has left for Marseille, to be replaced by Ldair, of Flamengo.

Benfica will not relish the visit to the Brandywell in Londonderry, to play Republic of Ireland champions, Derry City who, together with Irish champions Linfield, make history by being the first two Ireland clubs to compete in the European Cup in the same season.

Sweeper

Derry are unlikely to halt Benfica's progress, and Linfield, who face the Soviet champions, Dnepropetrovsk, are equally unlikely to gain any concrete reward for the long journey to the deepest Soviet Union.

The Benelux representatives had mixed fortunes. PSV Eindhoven, still mourning the loss of sweeper Ronald Koeman to Barcelona, with an awkward looking tie against Swiss champions, Lucerne. PSV paid £325,000 for Roda JC midfielder Michale Boerebach with the purpose of trying to fill the Koeman role. Even if he adapts Koeman's loss is unlikely to be compensted for this season.

The Zambian international, Kalusha Bwalya is another addition to the ranks, and though PSV still look a formidable outfit, they no longer seem to be potential champions.

The Belgian champions Mechelen who are making their European Cup debut lost more than they gained during the summer. Ruud Krol replaced fellow Dutchman, Aad de Mos as coach of a counter- attacking unit that does not have quite the promise of two years ago.

The manner in which Mechelen conceded three goals in 18 minutes against Sampdoria last season bodes ill for the most testing arenas they will visit in the months ahead. Rosenborg, of Norway should cause few problems but the loss of leading goalscorer Piet Den Boer, is likely to be a serious handicap in the later stages.

CUP-W... CUP DRAW

Preliminary round:
Chernomoretz v Dinamo Tiran
First round:
Admira Wacker v AEL Limass
Anderlecht v Ballymena
Barcelona v Legia Warsaw
Belenenses v Monaco
Besiktas v Borussia Dortmund
Brann Bergen v Sampdoria
Dinamo Bucharest v Chernom
Dinamo Tirana
Ferencvaros v Valkeakosken
Groningen v Ikast (Den)
Panathinaikos v Swansea
Partizan v Celtic
Slovan Bratislava v Grasshop
Torpedo Moscow v Cork City
US Luxembourg v Djurgarden
Valladolid v Hamrun Spartan
Valur v Dynamo Berlin

Ties on September 13 and 27

BARCELONA could have been forgiven for thinking that, as holders and top seeds, they were entitled to begin their defence of the Recopa with a somewhat easier tie than the Polish cup holders Legia, are likely to offer.

Having won the tropy for a record third time, coach Johan Cruyff, aware of the growing desperation at Nou Camp to depose bitter rival Real Madrid, delved into the transfer market to secure Ronald Koeman from PSV, and Michael Laudrup from Juventus.

The significant aspect undoubtedly relates to Koeman's versatility; he is a superb defender, hits the ball extremely hard and is blessed with the vision which can turn defence into attack with breathtaking speed and accuracy.

...ilan, have not gained widespread approval in Barcelona.

He never took to Gary Lineker and even when the Englishman played a prominent part in the triumph in Berne, did not hesitate to hasten his return to his native land. Now Cruyff must coax out of Laudrup what Juventus only managed to do occasionally.

Koeman should give a new dimension to Barcelona's game, and Laudrup, who in a much deeper role demonstrated a new maturity in Denmark's recent internationals, will also be instrumental in the club's double-pronged challenge, at home and abroad, during the coming season.

Legia will provide stiff opposition, but their position has been weakened by the transfer to Celtic, of striker, Dariusz Dziekanowski, for some much-needed hard currency, in this case, £500,000.

Given the lack of quality in this season's competition, Barcelona must be considered an excellent bet to ... occasions, but have fallen on lean times in recent years.

So, there was much activity at Parc Astrid during the summer. The departure of coach Raymond Goethals was the cue for Aad de Mos, the Dutchman who had transformed Mechelen's fortunes, to accept a lucrative offer from Anderlecht to restore the club's European status.

De Mos's immediate priority was to strengthen the playing staff, doubtless with the European challenge in mind. Anderlecht's striking rate was the highest in Belgium last season but, with Krncevic on the way out a new striking partnership was required.

The new arrivals constituted the strike force of Belgium's national team: Marc van der Linden, signed from Antwerp, and Brugge's Marc Degryse, whose fee of £1.6 million was a domestic transfer record. Ballymena

Continued overleaf

Alan McInally.

WINNERS LIST

1955-56: Real Madrid 4, Stade de Reims 3
1956-57: Real Madrid 2, Florentina 0
1957-58: Real Madrid 3, AC Milan 2 (aet)
1958-59: Real Madrid 2, Stade de Reims 0
1959-60: Real Madrid 7, Ein. Frankfurt 3
1960-61: Benfica 3, Barcelona 2
1961-62: Benfica 5, Real Madrid 3
1962-63: AC Milan 2, Benfica 1
1963-64: Inter-Milan 3, Real Madrid 1
1964-65: Inter-Milan 1, Benfica 0
1965-66: Real Madrid 2, PartizanBelgrade I
1966-67: Celtic 2, Inter-Milan 1
1967-68: Manchester U 4, Benfica 1 (aet)
1968-69: AC Milan 4, Ajax Amsterdam 1
1969-70: Feyenoord 2, Celtic I (aet)
1970-71: Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0
1971-72: Ajax Amsterdam 2, Inter-Milan 0
1972-73: Ajax Amsterdam 1, Juventus 0
1973-74: Bayern Munich 1, At. Madrid 1
1974-75: Bayern Munich 2, Leeds U 0
1975-76: Bayern Munich 1, St Etienne 0
1976-77: Liverpool 3, Borussia Moenchengladbach 1
1977-78: Liverpool 1, FC Brugge 0
1978-79: Nottingham F I, Malmo 0
1979-80: Nottingham FI, SV Hamburg 0
1980-81: Liverpool (0) I, Real Madrid (0) 0
1981-82: A. Villa (0) I, Bayern Munich (0) 0
1982-83: SV Hamburg (1) I, Juventus (0) 0
1983-84: AS Roma (1) 1, Liverpool (1) I
1984-85: Juventus (0) 1, Liverpool (0) 0
1985-86: Steaua Bucharest (0) 0, Barcelona (0) 0
1986-87: Porto (0) 2, Bayern Munich (1) 1
1987-88: PSV (0) 0, Benfica (0) 0
1988-89: Milan 4, Steau Bucharest 0

the principality side would have [illegible] for at this stage, though French experience should prevail.

Two other former winners to have fallen from the pedestal of old are Slovan Bratislava, winners in 1969, and Borussia Dortmund, who won in 1966.

Istanbul is the first port of call for the Germans, and Besiktas are always a difficult proposition at home, though Borussia's prospects appear healthier than Slovan's, as the Czechs face an awkward confrontation with Swiss side, Grasshoppers Zurich.

Success

The British representative had mixed fortunes. Swansea City, carrying the Welsh flag in their annual foray into Europe, face a volatile reception when they play Panathinaikos in Athens, and it seems reasonable to assume that the Greek odyssey will be short lived.

British hopes of the trophy clearly lie with Celtic. The Glasgow club, long since in the European doldrums, and their pride stung by the domestic success and endless publicity of Rangers, looked abroad to strenghten the squad.

The Polish international Dziekanowski was signed from Legia, while Paul Elliot returned home after a spell in Italy. The draw could have been kinder; Partizan Belgrade command a great deal of respect and the only consolation for Celtic is that the first leg has been switched to Yugoslavia.

Partizan, of course, cannot play in their own JNA stadium, following the unsavoury incidents during last season's UEFA Cup tie with Roma. So, they have to play the home leg against Celtic more than 200 miles from Belgrade, a factor which may prove to be advantageous for the Scots.

stages, there [illegible] they are good enough to threaten the likes of Barcelona who, with Koeman and Laudrup now look a good bet to become the first club ever to retain the Recopa.

WINNERS LIST

1960-61: First Leg Rangers 0, Fiorentina 2
Second Leg Fiorentina 2, Rangers 1
1961-62: Fiorentina I, Atletico Madrid 1
Replay: Atletico Madrid 3, Fiorentina 0
1962-63: Tottenham H 5, Atletico Madrid 1
1963-64: MTK Budapest 3, Sporting Lison 3 (aet)
Replay: Sporting Lison I, MTK Budapest 0
1964-65: West Ham U 2, Munich 1860 0
1965-66: Borussia Dortmund 2, Liverpool 1 (aet)
1966-67: Bayern Munich 1, Rangers 0 (aet)
1967-68: AC Milan 2, SV Hamburg 0
1968-69: Slovan Bratislava 3, Barcelona 2
1969-70: Manchester C 2, Gornik Zabrze I
1970-71: Chelsea I, Real Madrid I (aet)
Replay: Chelsea 2, Real Madrid I (aet)
1971-72: Rangers 3, Dynamos Moscow 2
1972-73: AC Milan I, Leeds U 0
1973-74: FC Magdeburg 2, AC Milan 0
1974-75: Dynamo Kiev 3, Ferencvaros 0
1975-76: Anderlecht 4, West Ham U 2
1976-77: Hamburg 2, Anderlecht 0
1977-78: Anderlecht 4, Austria/WAC 0
1978/79: Barcelona 4, Fortuna Dusseldorf 3 (aet)
1979-80: Valencia 0, Arsenal 0 (aet)
1980-81: Dynamo Tbilisi (0) 2, Carl Zeiss Jena (0) I
1981-82: Barcelona (1) 2, Standard Liege (1) I
1982-82: Aberdeen (1) 2, Real Madrid (1) I
1983-84: Juventus (2) 2, Porto (1) I
1984-85: Everton (0) 3, Rapid Vienna (0) I
1985-86: Dynamos Kiev (1) 3, Atletico Madrid (0) 0
1986-87: Ajax Amsterdam (1) I, Lokmotiv Leipzig (0) 0
1987-88: Mechelen (0) I, Ajax (0) 0
1988-89: Barcelona 2, Sampdoria 0

[illegible]EFA CUP DRAW

[illegible]inary round:
[illegible]e v Dinamo Zagreb

[illegible]ound:
[illegible]en v Rapid Vienna
[illegible]n Limassol v Zaragoza
[illegible]a v Spartak Moscow
[illegible] Madrid v Florentina
[illegible]e or Dinamo Zagreb v Apollonia [illegible]lb)
[illegible]tria v Ajax Amsterdam
[illegible]saray v Red Star Belgrade
[illegible]ran v Dundee United
[illegible] Zabrze v Juventus
[illegible] Rostock (EG) v Banik Ostrava
[illegible]ian v Videoton (Hun)
[illegible] (GR) v Sion (Swz)
[illegible]arx-Stadt v Boavista
[illegible]mamo v MTK Budapest
[illegible] Plastike Nitra (Cz)
[illegible] Lahti v Paris Saint-Germain
[illegible] Akranes
[illegible]om (Nor) v Werder Bremen
Olympiakos v Rad Beograd
Orgryte (Swe) v Hamburg
Porto v Placara Moreni(Rum)
RoPs (Fin) v GKS Katowice
Souchaux v Jeunesse Esch
Sporting Lisbon v Napoli
Stuttgart v Feyenoord
Twente Enschede v Brugge (Belgium)
Valencia v Victoria Bucharest
Valletta v Vienna
Vitosha Sofia v Antwerp
Wettingen (Swz) v Dundalk (RI)
Zenit Leningrad v Naestved
Zhalgiris v IFK Gothenburg

Ties on September 13 and 27

NAPOLI begin the defence of the UEFA Cup with a testing tie against Sporting Lisbon, and in the knowledge that the future of the man who has turned theclub into a major European power, the Argentinian, Diego Maradona, is fraught with uncertainty.

The source of this discontent is another club with pretensions of greatness, Marseille, of France, who have offered £10 million for Maradona, who has declared his dissatisfaction with Napoli. The pressures, he says, have become too great.

Napoli, having replaced their coach, Ottavio Bianchi and looking to challenge the might of the two Milan clubs for the scudetto, are adamant that Maradona will stay to partner Careca upfront.

Napoli chairman, Corrado Ferlaino is emphatic that the matter is not negotiable. "However they approach us, we will not give up Maradona", he said.

With the competition in Italy reaching a new level of excellence and the opposition in Europe looking ominously difficult, Napoli, even assuming they get the better of Sporting, in what is one of the more attractive first round ties, will have a hard time holding onto the trophy.

Another side with an awkward tie is Stuttgart, whose quest to improve on last season's silver medals begins against Feyenoord, having been seriously weakened by the loss to Inter Milan, of leading goalscorer, Jurgen Klinsmann.

In an attempt to redress the balance Stuttgart, intelligently coached by Arie Haan, have used the £1.6 million fee to obtain Michael Frontzek, from Borussia Maonchengladbach, for £600,000 and Harold Kohr from Kaisterslautern.

Stuttgart should get the better of Feyenoord, now very much in the shadows of PSV and Ajax at home, and the Rotterdammers one major signing, the 25-year-old Rene Eykelkamp, from Groningen, is unlikely to bring the port club back into the top echelon.

Outfit

Ajax, however, may be set to rekindly memories of past triumphs. They improved enormously towards the end of last season, even thrashing PSV on their own ground. Under new coach Leo Beenhakker, Ajax's fine young outfit should not find Austria Vienna an overly difficult opponent.

None of the Dutch Representatives have easy ties, and Twente Enschede, back in Europe after a long absence, face Brugge in an intriguing and well balanced tie. Brugge will rue the loss of international striker Marc Degryse, who has moved to Anderlecht, and may find the provincial Dutch outfit too much of a handful.

In common with Stuttgart, the other west German representatives also look poised to progress. Koln have lost the services of Danish international Morten Olsen, but have replaced him with the Norwegian captain, Ander Giske. Another new arrival is Frank Ordenewitz, formerly of Werder Bremen and a recipient of FIFA's Fair Play award, and Koln should have too much firepower for the Czechs of Plastika Nitra.

Hamburg, who play Orgryte, and Werder who also face Scandinavian opposition in Lillestrom, are well placed to ensure that West Germany will have a full complement in the second round.

The Italian quartet collectively have a much harder task ahead of them. Napoli should beat Sporting, but Atalanta will do extremely well to overcome Spartak Moscow, while Fiorentina, in a finely balanced tie against Atletico Madrid, may discover the departure of cultured defender,

:angle adds problems

Glenn Hysen too great a handicap to overcome.

Juventus, who have announced their intention to persevere with the Soviet import Alexander Zavarov, face Gornik Zabrze in another tie that could go either way, though the 'Old Lady' should go through.

IFK Goteborg, winners in 1987, and going through another period of rebuilding, have been paired with Zhalgiris Vilnius, a Lithuanian side who for the time being at least, remain part of the Soviet league, and opposition the Swedes could have done without at this stage.

Another Soviet side, rather more famous in foreign parts is Dynamo Kiev. The halcyon days of 1986 and 1987 are now but a pleasant memory but, some members of that outstanding side still remain, and even a transitional Kiev seem to have too much know how for MTK Budapest.

WINNERS' LIST

Fairs Cup 1955-58: First Leg London 2, Barcelona 2
Second Leg Barcelona 6, London 0
Fairs Cup 1958-60: First Leg Birmingham C 0, Barcelona 0
Second Leg Barcelona 4, Birmingham C 1
Fairs Cup 1960-61: First Leg Birmingham C 2, AS Roma 2
Second Leg AS Roma 2, Birmingham C 0
Fairs Cup 1961-62: First Leg Valenica 6, Barcelona 2
Second Leg Barcelona 1, Valencia 1
Fairs Cup 1962-63: First Leg Dynamo Zagreb 1, Valencia 2
Second Leg Valencia 2, Dy. Zagreb 0
Fairs Cup 1963-64: Real Zaragoza 2, Valencia 1
Fairs Cup 1964-65: Juventus 0, Ferencvaros 1
Fairs Cup 1965-66: First Leg Barcelona 0, Real Zaragoza 1
Second Leg R. Zaragoza 2, Barcelona 4
European Fairs Cup: 1966-67: First Leg Dynamo Zagreb 2, Leeds U 0
Second Leg Leeds 0, Dynamo Zagreb 0
European Fairs Cup: 1967-68: First Leg Leeds 1, Ferencvaros 0
Second Leg Ferencvaros 0, Leeds U 0
European Fairs Cup: 1968-69: First Leg Newcastle U 3, Ujpest Dozsa 0
Second Leg Uj Dozsa 2, Newcastle U3
European Fairs Cup: 1969-70: First Leg Anderlecht 3, Arsenal 1
Second Leg Arsenal 3, Anderlecht 0
European Fairs Cup: 1970-71: First Leg Juventus 2, Leeds U 2
Second Leg Leeds U 1, Juventus 1
UEFA Cup 1971-72: First Leg Wolverhampton W 1, Tottenham H 2
Second Leg Tottenham H 1, Wolverhampton W 1 UEFA Cup 1972-73: First Leg Liverpool 3, Borussia Moenchengladbach 0
Second Leg Borussia Moenchengladbach 2, Liverpool 0
UEFA Cup 1973-74: First Leg Tottenham Hotspur 2, Feyenoord 2
Second Leg Feyenoord 2, Tottenham Hotspur 0
UEFA Cup 1974-75: First Leg Borussia Moenchengladbach 0, Twente Enschede 0
Second Leg Twente Enschede 1, Borussia Moenchengladbach 5
UEFA Cup 1975-76: First Leg Liverpool 3, FC Brugge 2
Second Leg FC Brugge 1, Liverpool 1
UEFA Cup 1976-77: First Leg Juventus 1, Athletic Bilbao 0
Second Leg Athletic Bilbao 2, Juventus 1
UEFA Cup 1977-78: First Leg Bastia 0, PSV Eindhoven 0
Second Leg PSV Eindhoven 3, Bastia 0
UEFA Cup 1978-79: First Leg Red Star Belgrade 1, Borussia Moenchengladbach 1
Second Leg Borussia Moenchengladbach 1, Red Star Belgrade 0
UEFA Cup 1979-80: First Leg Borussia Moenchengladbach 3, Eintracht Frankfurt 2
Second Leg Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Borussia Moenchengladbach 0
UEFA Cup 1980-81: First Leg Ipswich T (1) 3, AZ 67 Alkmaar (0) 0
Second Leg AZ 67 Alkmaar (3) 4, Ipswich (2) 2
UEFA Cup 1981-82: First Leg IFK Gothenburg (0) 1, SV Hamburg (0) 0
Second Leg SV Hamburg (0) 0, IFK Gothenburg (1) 3
UEFA Cup 1982-83: First Leg Anderlecht (1) 1, Benfica (0) 0
Second Leg Benfica (1) 1, Anderlecht (1) 1
UEFA Cup 1983-84: First Leg Anderlecht (0) 1, Tottenham Hotspur (0) 1
Second Leg Tottenham Hotspur (0) 1, Anderlecht (0) 1
UEFA Cup 1984-85: First Leg Videoton (0) 0, Real Madrid (1) 3
Second Leg Real Madrid (0) 0, Videoton (0) 1
UEFA Cup 1985-86: First Leg Real Madrid (2) 5, Cologne (1) 1
Second Leg Cologne (1) 2, Real Madrid (0) 0
UEFA Cup 1986-87: First Leg IFK Gothenburg (1) 1, Dundee United (0) 0
Second Leg Dundee United (0) 1, IFK Gothenburg (1) 1
UEFA Cup 1987-88: First Leg Espanol (1) 3, Bayer Leverkusen (0) 0
Second Leg: Bayer Leverkusen (0) 3, Espanol (0) 0
UEFA Cup 1988-89: First Leg Napoli 3, Stuttgart 1
Second Leg Stuttgart 3, Napoli 3

HÄSSLER CAN BE A WORLD CUP WINNER

THE NEW SEASON

WEST GERMANY

FROM ARTHUR ROTMIL

WEST GERMAN football has high hopes of its latest discovery, young, attacking midfielder Thomas Hässler, 23, from Koln, who following his debut a year ago, now has a permanent place in the national side.

In present form he could become a big hit in next year's World Cup finals in Italy.

The captains of the 18 Bundesliga clubs and national team manager Franz Beckenbauer voted Hassler their Player of the Year. And the readers of West Germany's biggest sports paper Kicker elected him with a big majority as their Idol for 1988.

They praised his pace, flair, enthusiasm for the game and fighting spirit.

For several years now experts claimed that the era of typical schemers, midfield generals, or playmakers was over. The Germans have earlier had a string of such classy organisers: Fritz Walter, Gunter Netzer, Wolfgang Overath, Jurgen Grabowski and Heinz Flohe.

Recently, however, there has been a dearth of talent in that department. But out of the 11 top midfielders in the Bundesliga there are now six who are 23 or younger. The midfielder as schemer is back in vogue again and West German football can look forward to seeing highly talented players ready for the national team.

Hassler was earlier last season rated by 'Kicker' as "world class" — an accolade the publication bestowes only rarely.

Thomas Hassler was born on May 30, 1966, in Berlin. A qualified draughtsman, he is only 5ft 6in. He began playing in 1971 with Meteor 06 Berlin, then moved to the Reinickendorfer Fuchsen, before Koln took him on in 1984. He has played in 115 Bundesliga games and scored 11 goals by the end of last season.

He made his international debut a year ago in a World Cup qualifier against Finland in Helsinki. He also played nine games for the Olympic XI, as well as in the Under-21 team and the youth side.

Cinema

His footballing ability he no doubt inherited from his father Klaus, who was a redoubtable player in Berlin's amateur divisions. "They called him "Nurmi" because he used to run like mad," says son Thomas, whose nickname is "Icke."

His early years as a pro were not exactly inspiring. He had to rely on helpers — like Koln's famous international 'keeper Toni Schumacher who was always ready to assist the youngster. Or Richard Nestvogel, today chief of Koln's amateur section. He would take young Hassler to the cinema, show him around the big city and help to integrate. Five times Hassler changed his home before he settled down.

He used to live on chips and coke and would spend hours in front of a videorecorder. Now, his life is more orderly since he and his fiancee Angela, a cosmetic expert, share a flat and she does all the cooking.

His idol is, or was Pierre Littbarski, Koln's international whom he has now overtaken as the playmaker in the first team. As his greatest experience and success Hassler describes the winning of the bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Seoul last October.

"I've enjoyed last year tremendously" he says. "Debut in national colours, the Olympics and the many fine games with the club. But there are enough examples to show that one can just as quickly disappear from the scene."

None other than the great Wolfgang Overath describes Thomas Hassler as "the best midfielder in German football."

"We are lucky to have him at Koln and in the national side. I am pleased

Gates crisis is Germans' big test

THIS could be the most momentous season in the 26 years of the West German Bundesliga.

After the well-nigh revolutionary proposals submitted by the League committee had been rejected, soccer is looking anxiously to the DFB who appointed its own commission to prepare a blueprint for West German football, mainly designed to arrest the alarming drop in attendances.

The total of nearly 5.6 million spectators (average 18.292) was the fourth worst since the foundation of the League in 1963. Everybody is agreed that something must be done to lift interest in league football to former heights and help the clubs, many of whom are struggling financially, to keep their professional status.

When the last season ended, the business manager of champions Bayern Munich and their former star Uli Hoeness said optimistically: "We shall be taking our cue from Milan, Real Madrid, or Napoli." It was meant as a declaration of intent, but sounded hollow in view of the Bundesliga's season's record.

Never before have there been so few goals scored — only 852, while 17 goals were enough for Thomas Allofs and Roland Wohlfarth to share the top scorers title — the lowest-ever total as well. By contrast,the 30 sendings off were nearly a record (31 were registered in 1985-86). The 931 cautions were a new mark (previously 815).

Sadly the season was pale, performances colourless, no more than average and with few exceptions not very entertaining. The last day of the campaign, when four teams finished level on points at the bottom and three of them saved themselves from relegation, brought an exciting finale, but could not erase the memory of the disappointing scenario that went before.

The new TV deal which guarantees the clubs a massive £12 million per season (paid mainly by private cable channels), could yet prove to be the mathematical miscalculation which killed the golden goose.

It is chiefly thanks to the widespread broadcasts of live games that the fans are staying away from the stadia in droves. The League stepped in and tried to launch a bold reform programme, but clearly some of the suggested formulas are not the remedies needed.

Despite all the problems some of the clubs still manage to dig deep into the financial reserves. The turnover on the transfer market reached an astonishing £20 million. The most expensive purchase was Scottish striker Alan McInally who cost Bayern Munich £1.1 million. International defender Jurgen Kohler from Koln (£1 million) and the Yugoslav striker Radomir Mihailovic (£500,000) from Dinamo Zagreb were Bayern's other important buys.

Four players left Munich — Ekstroem and Machtweih (both to Cannes, France), Wegmann (Borussia Dortmund) and Eck (Hamburger SV).

The next big spenders were Koln who first sold Kohler and the Bundesliga's top scorer Thomas Allofs (to Strasbourg) for a total of £1.5 million. They spent it all on Frank Ordenewitz (Werder Bremen, Hans-Georg Dresen (Borussia Monchengladbach) and the Norwegian Anders Giske (Nurnberg).

The club who earned most money from sales were Stuttgart. Top striker Jurgen Klinsmann went to Inter-Milan for about £1.4 million (the player will collect the rest, about £1 million!), while the Yugoslav international midfielder Srecko Katanec signed for Italy's Samdoria for £1.5 million.

Cup holders Borussia Dortmund hired the talented Michael Schulz (Kaiserslautern) for £660,000. Promoted Fortuna Dusseldorf spent £500,000 on Uwe Fuchs and Anthony Baffoe, both from Fortuna Koln. Bayer Leverkusen engaged three new players, the most prominent being Brazil's captain Jorginho (ex-Flamengo) who cost £660,000, plus the Second Division's top scorer Sven Demandt (Dusseldorf) for £340,000 and Martin Kree (Bochum) for £500,000. They lost international midfielder Wolfgang Rolff who joined Strasbourg.

Jurgen Kohler cost champions Bayern Munich £1 million.

and happy that German soccer once again has a schemer of international class. The only reservations I have concern the amount of defensive work Hassler is expected to fulfil. He should be freed from this additional burden, then he will be even more creative."

Of course, the danger is that already Italian and French clubs are tempting him with big offers. Juventus and Lazio were both willing to raise millions to get their hands on Hassler, but have been turned down. And so have French champions Marseille who had him on top of their shopping list and offered £4 million. When Koln and Hassler refused, the French moved for Tottenham's Chris Waddle.

Hassler thinks he has enough time before taking the plunge abroad. "My target is to win the Bundesliga championship," he says. "We have a marvellous team which is mentally tough and our attitude is superb.

It is said that he would like to play next to Littbarski in the national side. But Franz Beckenbauer apparently prefers Andy Moller and Lothar Matthaus as Hassler's partners.

There are experts who claim that Hassler is too much of a team player that he should try to be more of an individualist. To which he replies: "I would love to play in a more forward role, perhaps as a striker and shoot at goal."

WEST GERMANY LEAGUE FIXTURES

Reverse Dates in Brackets

July 25 (Nov 25):
FC St. Pauli — Werder Bremen
Bayer Leverkusen — Bor. Dortmund
Bayern Munchen — 1. FC Nurnberg
1. FC Kaiersl. — Bor M'gladbach
Bayer Uerdingen — FC Homburg
VfB Stuttgart — Karlsruher SC
VfL Bochum — 1. FC Koln
Eintr. Frankfurt — SV Waldhof
Fort. Dusseldorf — Hamburger SV

Aug 5 (Dec 2):
Hamburger SV — Eintr. Frankfurt
1. FC Koln — VfB Stuttgart
Karlsruher SC — Bayer Uerdingen
FC Homburg — 1. FC Kaiserslautern
Bor. M'gladbach — Bayern Munchen
1. FC Nurnberg — Bayer Leverkusen
Bor. Dortmund — FC St. Pauli
Werder Bremen — Fort. Dusseldorf
SV Waldhof — VfL Bochum

Aug 12 (Dec 9):
FC St. Pauli — 1. FC Nurnberg
Bayer Leverkusen — Bor. M'gladbach
Bayern Munchen — FC Homburg*
1. FC Kaiersl. — Karlsruher SC*
Bayer Uerdingen — 1. FC Koln
VfB Stuttgart — SV Waldhof
VfL Bochum — Hamburger SV
Werder Bremen — Bor. Dortmund
Fort. Dusseldorf — Eintr. Frankfurt

Aug 16 (Dec 16):
Hamburger SV — VfB Stuttgart
1. FC Koln — 1. FC Kaiserslautern
Karlsruher SC — Bayern Munchen
FC Homburg — Bayer Leverkusen
Bor. M'gladbach — FC St. Pauli
1. FC Nurnberg — Werder Bremen
Bor. Dortmund — Fort. Dusseldorf
Eintr. Frankfurt — VfL Bochum
SV Waldhof — Bayer Uerdingen

Aug 23 (Feb 24):
FC St. Pauli — FC Homburg
Bayer Leverkusen — Karlsruher SC
Bayern Munchen — 1. FC Koln
1. FC Kaiersl. — SV Waldhof
Bayer Uerdingen — Hamburger SV
VfB Stuttgart — Eintr. Frankfurt
Bor. Dortmund — 1. FC Nurnberg
Werder Bremen — Bor. M'gladbach
Fort. Dusseldorf — VfL Bochum

Aug 26 (Mar 3):
Hamburger SV — 1. FC Kaiersl.
1. FC Koln — Bayer Leverkusen
Karlsruher SC — FC St. Pauli
FC Homburg — Werder Bremen
Bor. M'gladbach — Bor. Dortmund
1. FC Nurnberg — Fort. Dusseldorf
VfL Bochum — VfB Stuttgart
Eintr. Frankfurt — Bayer Uerdingen
SV Waldhof — Bayern Munchen

Sept 2 (Mar 10):
FC St. Pauli — 1. FC Koln
Bayer Leverkusen — SV Waldhof
Bayern Munchen — Hamburger SV
1. FC Kaiserslautern — Eintr. Frankfurt
Bayer Uerdingen — VfL Bochum
1. FC Nurnberg — Bor. M'gladbach
Bor. Dortmund — FC Homburg
Werder Bremen — Karlsruher SC
Fort. Dusseldorf — VfB Stuttgart

Sept 9 (Mar 17):
Hamburger SV — Bayer Leverkusen
1. FC Koln — Werder Bremen
Karlsruher SC — Bor. Dortmund
FC Homburg — 1. FC Nurnberg
Bor. M'gladbach — Fort. Dusseldorf
VfB Stuttgart — Bayer Uerdingen
VfL Bochum — 1. FC Kaiserslautern
Eintr. Frankfurt — Bayern Munchen
SV Waldhof — FC St. Pauli

Sept 16 (Mar 24):
FC St. Pauli — Hamburger SV
Bayer Leverkusen — Eintr. Frankfurt
Bayern Munchen — VfL Bochum
1. FC Kaiserslautern — VfB Stuttgart
Bor. M'gladbach — FC Homburg
1. FC Nurnberg — Karlsruher SC
Bor. Dortmund — 1. FC Koln
Werder Bremen — SV Waldhof
Fort. Dusseldorf — Bayer Uerdingen

Sept 20 (Mar 31):
Hamburger SV — Werder Bremen
1. FC Koln — 1. FC Nurnberg
Karlsruher SC — Bor. M'gladbach
FC Homburg — Fortuna Dusseldorf
Bayer Uerdingen — 1. FC Kaiersl.
VfB Stuttgart — Bayern Munchen
VfL Bochum — Bayer Leverkusen
Eintr. Frankfurt — FC St. Pauli
SV Waldhof — Bor. Dortmund

Sept 30 (Apr 7):
FC St. Pauli — VfL Bochum
Bayer Leverkusen — VfB Suttgart
Bayern Munchen — Bayer Uerdingen
FC Homburg — Karlsruher SC
Bor. M'gladbach — 1. FC Koln
1. FC Nurnberg — SV Waldhof
Bor. Dortmund — Hamburger SV
Werder Bremen — Eintr. Frankfurt
Fort. Dusseldorf — 1. FC Kaiersl.

Oct 7 (Apr 12/14):
Hamburger SV — 1. FC Nurnberg
1. FC Koln — FC Homburg
Karlsruher SC — Fort. Dusseldorf
1. FC Kaiersl. — Bayern Munchen
Bay. Uerdingen — Bay. Leverkusen
VfB Stuttgart — FC St. Pauli
VfL Bochum — Werder Bremen
Eintr. Frankfurt — Bor. Dortmund
SV Waldhof — Bor. M'gladbach

Oct 14 (Apr 21):
FC St. Pauli — Bayer Uerdingen
Bayer Leverkusen — 1. FC Kaiersl.
Karlsruher SC — 1. FC Koln
FC Homburg — SV Waldhof
Bor. M'gladbach — Hamburger SV
1. FC Nurnberg — Eintr. Frankfurt
Bor. Dortmund — VfL Bochum
Werder Bremen — VfB Stuttgart
Fort. Dusseldorf — Bayern Munchen

Oct 21 (Apr 28):
Hamburger SV — FC Homburg
1. FC Koln — Fort. Dusseldorf
Bay. Munchen — Bay. Leverkusen
1. FC Kaiserslautern — FC St. Pauli
Bayer Uerdingen — Werder Bremen
VfB Stuttgart — Bor. Dortmund
VfL Bochum — 1. FC Nurnberg
Eintr. Frankfurt — Bor. M'gladbach
SV Waldhof — Karlsruher SC

Oct 28 (May 1/2):
FC St. Pauli — Bayern Munchen
Bayer Leverkusen — Fort. Dusseldorf
Karlsruher SC — Hamburger SV
FC Homburg — Eintr. Frankfurt
Bor. M'gladbach — Vfl Bochum
1. FC Nurnberg — VfB Stuttgart
Bor. Dortmund — Bayer Uerdingen
Werder Bremen — 1. FC Kaiersl.
SV Waldhof — 1. FC Koln

Nov 4 (May 5):
Hamburger SV — 1. FC Koln
Bayer Leverkusen — FC St. Pauli
Bayern Munchen — Werder Bremen
1. FC Kaiersl. — Bor. Dortmund
Bayer Uerdingen — 1. FC Nurnberg
VfB Stuttgart — Bor. M'gladbach
VfL Bochum — FC Homburg
Eintracht Frankfurt — Karlsruher SC
Fort. Dusseldorf — SV Waldhof

Nov 18 (May 12):
FC St. Pauli — Fort. Dusseldorf
1. FC Koln — Eintr. Frankfurt
Karlsruher SC — VfL Bochum
FC Homburg — VfB Stuttgart
Bor. M'gladbach — Bayer Uerdingen
1. FC Nurnberg — 1. FC Kaiersl.
Bor. Dortmund — Bayern Munchen
Werder Bremen — Bayer Leverkusen
SV Waldhof — Hamburger SV

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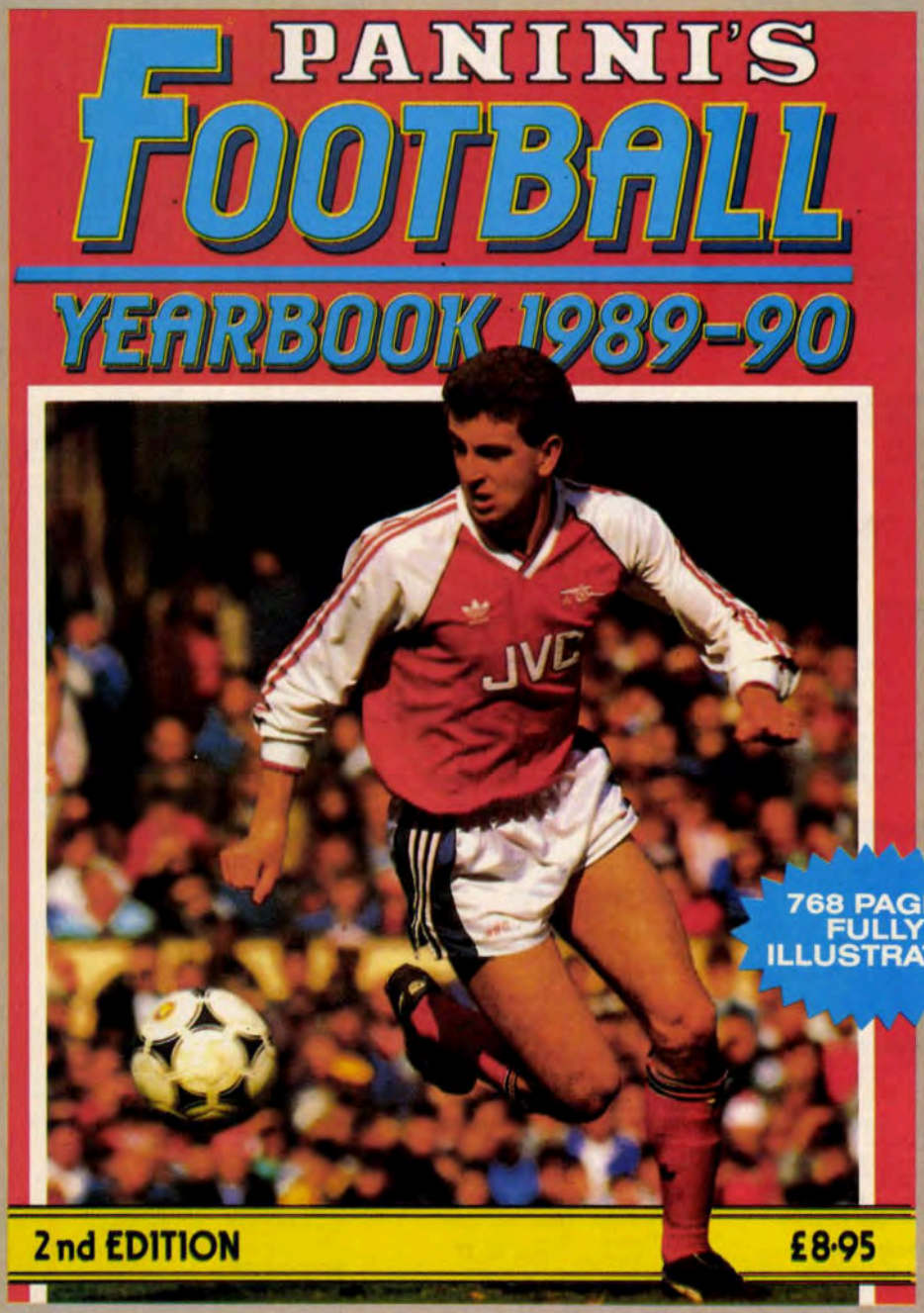

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Schumacher pays title cash from his own pocket

From HASAN CEMALI

THE NEW SEASON

TURKEY

TONI SCHUMACHER, controversial West German goalkeeper, is at the centre of an extraordinary scandal surrounding Turkish champions Fenerbahce at the start of the new campaign.

Schumacher stunned Turkish football when he announced that he had paid, out of this own pocket, more than £100,000 in championship-winning bonuses to his team-mates, as well as medical expenses for Turan, injured in a match in West Germany.

He added "I am team captain, not the president. This should not have been left for me to do. The club president, Tahsin Kaya, asked me if I would pay the money because he was, at that time, short of money."

Kaya's opponents within the board immediately demanded his resignation and told Schumacher that the club would repay him. Kaya's 'transfer committee' was also put under investigation over the strange affair of star striker Hasan at the end of last season. Hasan, who scored three vital goals against Galatasaray in the cup quarter-finals, had — it transpired — only been taken on loan from Rizespor the previous year.

No wonder a number of sponsors delayed confirming agreements with Fenerbahce. No wonder several board members were, last year, reluctant to dig into their own pockets — as Kaya had suggested — as a contribution towards transfer fees and bonuses.

Inevitably, Kaya quit, saying: "I made mistakes in choosing my executive committee from the various factions within the club. I should have chosen my own men. I know Fenerbahce won the championship but it is true that promises to the players were not kept and, as president, I have to take responsibility."

A caretaker president will be chosen this month to steer the club through to the annual meeting of members next March when proper elections will take place. Leading candidate is former president Ali Sen, who was running Fenerbahce when the club won the league and cup four years ago. He was forced out at the end of the following season when Fenerbahce lost their titles. Even the dismissal of coach Todor Veselinovic as an easy scapegoat was not enough to save Ali Sen.

Veselinovic is now back in charge of the team. He is reasonably happy with the attack and midfield but has been looking for a new sweeper. Midfield general Mujdat, who was wasted in the role last season, is expected to play 'in the hole' behind the strikers this term.

One possible sweeper being considered was Franz Beckenbauer's son, Stefan. In the end Fenerbahce resolved their problem with the first Soviet player to enter Turkish soccer. He is 23-year-old central defender Ivan Vishnesky from Soviet champions Dnepr. Meanwhile Henrik Nielsen from Denmark via Aris of Greece will play up front in place of Hasan.

Runners-up Besiktas, whose English coach Gordon Milne is threatening to set a continuous employment record, have strengthened their squad by signing two excellent goalkeepers — Engin from Sakaryaspor and Fatih from Samsunspor. They will compete for the place left by the departure of Zalad for Ankaragucu. Another departure is former international right winger Metin, who has been loaned to Sariyer.

New coach at Galatasaray is former West German World Cup star Sigi Held. He has been in Iceland, coaching the national team, and negotiations are continuing to see if Held can continue with his Iceland job — at least until the end of the current World Cup qualifiers. Galatasaray and the Turkish federation are unhappy, however, since Iceland and Turkey are in the same World Cup group.

TURKISH LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 2/3:
Samsunspor — Galatasaray
Konyaspor - - Zeytinburnu
Sariyer — Adanademirspor
Genclerbirligi — Sakaryaspor
Trabzonspor — Karsiyaka
Altay — Fenerbahce
Bursaspor — Ankaragucu
Adanaspor — Malatyaspor
Besiktas — Boluspor

Sept 9/10:
Boluspor — Adanaspor
Besiktas — Bursaspor
Malatyaspor — Altay
Ankaragucu — Trabzonspor
Fenerbahce — Genclerbirligi
Karsiyaka — Sariyer
Sakaryaspor — Konyaspor
Adanademirspor — Galatasaray
Zeytinburnu — Samsunspor

Sept 23/24:
Samsunspor — Adanademirspor
Konyaspor — Fenerbahce
Sariyer — Ankaragucu
Genclerbirligi — Malatyaspor
Trabzonspor — Besiktas
Altay — Boluspor
Adanaspor — Bursaspor
Zeytinburnu — Sakaryaspor
Galatasaray — Karsiyaka

Sept 30/Oct 1:
Bursaspor — Altay
Adanaspor — Trabzonspor
Boluspor — Genclerbirligi
Besiktas — Sariyer
Malatyaspor — Konyaspor
Ankaragucu — Galatasaray
Fenerbahce — Zeytinburnu
Karsiyaka - - Adanademirspor
Sakaryaspor — Samsunspor

Oct 7/8:
Samsunspor — Karsiyaka
Konyaspor — Boluspor
Sariyer — Adanaspor
Genclerbirligi — Bursaspor
Altay — Trabzonspor
Sakaryaspor — Fenerbahce
Adanademirspor — Ankaragucu
Zeytinburnu — Malatyaspor
Galatasaray — Besiktas

Oct 14/15:
Trabzonspor — Genclerbirligi
Altay — Sariyer
Bursaspor — Konyaspor
Adanaspor — Galatasaray
Boluspor — Zeytinburnu
Besiktas — Adanademirspor
Malatyaspor — Sakaryaspor
Ankaragucu — Karsiyaka
Fenerbahce — Samsunspor

Oct 28/29:
Samsunspor — Ankaragucu
Konyaspor — Trabzonspor
Genclerbirligi — Sariyer
Fenerbahce — Malatyaspor
Karsiyaka — Besiktas
Sakaryaspor — Boluspor
Adanademirspor — Adanaspor
Zeytinburnu — Bursaspor
Galatasaray — Altay

Nov 11/12:
Sariyer — Konyaspor
Genclerbirligi — Galatasaray
Trabzonspor — Zeytinburnu
Altay — Adanademirspor
Bursaspor — Sakaryaspor
Adanaspor — Karsiyaka
Boluspor — Fenerbahce
Besiktas — Ankaragucu
Malatyaspor — Samsunspor

Nov 18/19:
Samsunspor — Besiktas
Malatyaspor — Boluspor
Ankaragucu — Adanaspor
Fenerbahce — Bursaspor
Karsiyaka — Altay
Sakaryaspor — Trabzonspor
Adanademirspor — Genclerbirligi
Zeytinburnu — Sariyer
Galatasaray — Konyaspor

Nov 25/26:
Konyaspor — Adanademirspor
Sariyer — Sakaryaspor
Genclerbirligi — Karsiyaka
Trabzonspor — Fenerbahce
Altay — Ankaragucu
Bursaspor — Malatyaspor
Adanaspor — Besiktas
Boluspor — Samsunspor
Galatasaray — Zeytinburnu

Dec 2/3:
Samsunspor — Adanaspor
Boluspor — Bursaspor
Besiktas — Altay
Malatyaspor — Trabzonspor
Ankaragucu — Genclerbirligi
Fenerbahce — Sariyer
Karsiyaka — Konyaspor
Sakaryaspor — Galatasaray
Adanademirspor — Zeytinburnu

Dec 9/10:
Konyaspor — Ankaragucu
Sariyer — Malatyaspor
Genclerbirligi — Besiktas
Trabzonspor — Boluspor
Altay — Adanaspor
Bursaspor — Samsunspor
Adanademirspor — Sakaryaspor
Zeytinburnu — Karsiyaka
Galatasaray — Fenerbahce

Dec 16/17:
Samsunspor — Altay
Bursaspor — Trabzonspor
Adanaspor — Genclerbirligi
Boluspor — Sariyer
Besiktas — Konyaspor
Malatyaspor — Galatasaray
Ankaragucu — Zeytinburnu
Fenerbahce — Adanademirspor
Karsiyaka — Sakaryaspor

Dec 20:
Konyaspor — Adanaspor
Sariyer — Bursaspor
Genclerbirligi — Altay
Trabzonspor — Samsunspor
Karsiyaka — Fenerbahce
Sakaryaspor — Ankaragucu
Adanademirspor — Malatyaspor
Zeytinburnu — Besiktas
Galatasaray — Boluspor

Dec 23/24:
Samsunspor — Genclerbirligi
Trabzonspor — Sariyer
Altay — Konyaspor
Bursaspor — Galatasaray
Adanaspor — Zeytinburnu
Bursaspor — Adanademirspor
Besiktas — Sakaryaspor
Malatyaspor — Karsiyaka
Ankaragucu — Fenerbahce

Dec 30/31:
Konyaspor — Genclerbirligi
Sariyer — Samsunspor
Ankaragucu — Malatyaspor
Fenerbahce — Besiktas
Karsiyak — Boluspor
Sakaryaspor — Adanaspor
Adanademirspor — Bursaspor
Zeytinburnu — Altay
Galatasaray — Trabzonspor

Jan 6/7:
Samsunspor — Konyaspor
Sariyer — Galatasaray
Genclerbirligi — Zeytinburnu
Trabzonspor — Adanademirspor
Altay — Sakaryaspor
Bursaspor — Karsiyaka
Adanaspor — Fenerbahce
Boluspor — Ankaragucu
Besiktas — Malatyaspor

JUVENTU DOW

Aleinikov 'snatch' reveals their panic

THE NEW SEASON

ITALY

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

THE salient feature of this summer's Italian football scene, with its centre at Milanofiori, is that Juventus no longer dominate the market. Indeed, there has been something almost pathetic about the way a once dominant club has threshed about in its attempts to acquire players it has not been able to get.

Two years ago, Juventus spent untold millions for pitifully little purpose. Ian Rush was only one of several three million pound players who arrived in Turin, and all of them failed.

Since then, there have been other failures, notably that of Alexander Zavarov, who at the time of his acquisition seemed such a coup for L'Avvocato (The Lawyer), alias Gianni Agnelli of Fiat, Patron and Father Figure of Juve. But Zavarov has utterly been unable to adjust to Italian football.

Juventus tried to send him back to Kiev. But it seemed even Valeri Lobanovsky did not want him back. Juve, then realising that they were stuck with Zavarov, decided to try to make the best of it: thus they spent £1.6 million to gazump Genoa for Minsk Dynamo's Sergei Aleinikov.

Genoa, predictably, were furious.

But Juve had been driven to desperate lengths after being rebuffed with bids for two Brazilians.

Both Dunga of Fiorentina and Muller of relegated neighbours Torino, had made it clear they passionately wanted to join Juventus.

Indeed, while back in Brazil last July, each threatened never to return rather than to stay, respectively, with their clubs.

It looked as if Dunga, who had fallen out seriously with the Fiorentina directors, and Muller, eternally undisciplined, slung out of the Brazilian squad when, typically, he failed to show up at training camp before the South American Championship, were prepared to sit it out at home. Though by the time you read this, deals may have been done.

Dunga was said to have an "escape" clause, whereby he could buy himself out of his contract for £1 million or so. But in the event Fiorentina demanded a ludicrous £7.4 million from Juve, who clearly had no intention of paying it. Instead, they tried to set up an elaborate deal whereby they would buy other players and trade them to the Florentine club in exchange for Dunga.

As for Muller, the new Torino manager, the impetuous Tuscan, Eugenio Fascetti, who insulted Enzo Bearzot at Coverciano during the 1982 World Cup, announced that he had no intention of letting the Brazilian leave.

Fiorentina have acquired Lubos Kubik, the wandering Czech, who has been more generously treated by the Czech authorities — keen no doubt to make money out of him — than seemed likely. For the moment at least, they have managed to keep Roberto Baggio, the jewel in their crown, the attacking midfielder, but they have had to let his partner, Borogonovo, return to Milan, since he was only on loan.

Roma's deep-lying winger Daniel Massaro has also gone back to Milan after a spell on loan. Berlusconi, Milan's President, never wanted him to go in the first place.

How Fiorentina and the loquacious Count Pontello must have been kicking themselves over Ramon Diaz, the Argentine centre- forward whom the Count, owner of Fiorentina, never ceased to abuse (together, be it recalled, with Baggio!). On loan to Inter, Diaz had a splendid season, after a rocky start, and it yet remains to be seen whether Jurgen Klinsmann, the West German international striker, can do for champions Inter what Diaz did last season.

"Rather than have Diaz back," roared the Count, "I'd play centre-forward myself." Then Giorgi, the new Fiorentina manager, arrived, and begged for Diaz. Diaz, also at odds with Carlos Bilardo, who won't pick him for Argentina, allegedly because Maradona doesn't like him, remarked: "Well, I can always play outside-left," adamantly refused to come back to Florence and left for Monaco.

Juve, in the meantime, how were the

Top: Sergei Aleinikov cost £1.6 million.
Left: Alexander Zavarov has been a failure in Italy.

S LOSE ALL THE WAY N THE LINE

Torino have no intention of allowing their undisciplined Brazilian star Muller leave to join Juventus.

mighty fallen, had acquired a couple of centre-forwards from Serie B, Casaraghi of Monza and Schillaci of Messina. Either might do well in a good team; but both together? And with Michael Laudrup gone to Barcelona, Rui Barros of Portugal retained, it seemed, only on sufferance after a perfectly good season?

Salvatore Schillaci is a genuine Sicilian, born in seething Palermo in December, 1964. His whole professional career has been spent with Messina, whom he helped to double promotion from C2 to C1 to B. He can play centre-forward, or on the wing.

"I just cannot wait to wear the Juventus shirt," he says. "You'll see that I shan't fail." Well, I hope not, but, with Platini no more than a memory, who is going to give him the ball?

Bologna may yet live to regret shelling out a fortune for the tiny Brazilian midfielder Geovani (Vasco da Gama) who had a perfectly shocking South American Championship. "You haven't seen the real me," he kept saying, blaming lack of fitness and the appalling pitch in Bahia, but there were sceptics.

Claudio Caniggia, who had a good Championship in Brazil, scoring goals for Argentina, has had half his wish granted. Named in a drugs scandal, though never charged, he could not wait to leave Verona, but would have liked a bigger club than Atalanta, who meanwhile have parted company with the busy Swede, Robert Prytz, and have sold their lively Italian midfielder, Fortunato, to Milan.

Naples, Maradona, pressing to leave for Marseille, has accused the club of being three or four players short of a team capable of challenging for the title. Bianchi has gone at last with dignity after a successful but turbulent time in office, the new manager being Alberto Bigon, from Cwsena: once a Milan centre-forward.

Roma have urgently been trying to rid themselves of the vastly expensive and quite unproductive Brazilian winger Renato, while attempting to buy a more effective Brazilian, the midfielder Silas, from Sporting Lisbon. They too are under new management in Gigi Radice, sacked controversially last season by Torino, once manager of Milan. So Nils Liedholm departs at last. Rudi Voeller, a hero last season, promises many more goals and his fellow German, Berthold from Verona, will shape up defence; but how will Giannini play, and how long will the little inside- forward stay with Roma?

Giannini . . . will he stay at Roma?

ITALIAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Reverse Fixtures in Brackets

Aug 27 (Jan 7):
Ascoli — Napoli
Atalanta — Verona
Bari — Fiorentina
Cesena — Milan
Genoa — Lecce
Inter — Cremonese
Juventus — Bologna
Lazio — Sampdoria
Udinese — Roma

Sept 3 (Jan 14):
Bologna — Inter
Cremonese — Cesena
Fiorentina — Genoa
H.Verona — Juventus
Lecce — Atalanta
Milan — Lazio
Napoli — Udinese
Roma — Ascoli
Sampdoria — Bari

Sept 6 (Jan 17):
Ascoli — Sampdoria
Atalanta — Milan
Bari — H. Verona
Cesena — Napoli
Genoa — Roma
Inter — Lecce
Juventus — Fiorentina
Lazio — Cremonese
Udinese — Bologna

Sept 10 (Jan 21):
Bologna — Bari
Cremonese — Genoa
Fiorentina — Lazio
H. Verona — Napoli
Juventus — Ascoli
Lecce — Cesena
Milan — Udinese
Roma — Atalanta
Sampdoria — Inter

Sept 17 (Jan 28):
Ascoli — H. Verona
Atalanta — Cremonese
Bari — Roma
Cesena — Bologna
Genoa — Milan
Inter — Juventus
Lazio — Lecce
Napoli — Fiorentina
Udinese — Sampdoria

Sept 24 (Feb 4):
Ascoli — Inter
Bologna — Genoa
Cremonese — Napoli
H. Verona — Lazio
Juventus — Bari
Lecce — Udinese
Milan — Fiorentina
Roma — Cesena
Sampdoria — Atalanta

Oct 1 (Feb 11):
Atalanta — Cesena
Bari — Ascoli
Bologna — Cremonese
Fiorentina — Udinese
Genoa — Sampdoria
H. Verona — Lecce
Inter — Roma
Lazio — Juventus
Napoli — Milan

Oct 8 (Feb 18):
Ascoli — Bologna
Cesena — Lazio
Cremonese — Milan
Inter — Bari
Juventus — Atalanta
Lecce — Fiorentina
Roma — Napoli
Sampdoria — H. Verona
Udinese — Genoa

Oct 22 (Feb 25):
Atalanta — Ascoli
Cesena — Udinese
Fiorentina — Sampdoria
Genoa — Juventus
H. Verona — Cremonese
Lazio — Bologna
Lecce — Bari
Milan — Roma
Napoli — Inter

Oct 29 (Mar 4):
Ascoli — Milan
Bari — Cesena
Bologna — Atalanta
Cremonese — Fiorentina
Genoa — Napoli
Inter — Lazio
Juventus — Sampdoria
Roma — Lecce
Udinese — H. Verona

Nov 5 (Mar 11):
Bari — Genoa
Cesena — Ascoli
Cremonese — Udinese
Fiorentina — Bologna
H. Verona — Inter
Lazio — Atalanta
Milan — Juventus
Napoli — Lecce
Sampdoria — Roma

Nov 19 (Feb 18):
Atalanta — Bari
Bologna — H. Verona
Fiorentina — Ascoli
Genoa — Cesena
Inter — Milan
Lecce — Cremonese
Napoli — Sampdoria
Roma — Lazio
Udinese — Juventus

Nov 26 (Mar 25):
Ascoli — Cremonese
Atalanta — Inter
Bari — Udinese
Cesena — Fiorentina
H. Verona — Roma
Juventus — Napoli
Lazio — Genoa
Milan — Lecce
Sampdoria — Bologna

Dec 3 (Apr 8):
Cesena — Inter
Cremonese — Juventus
Fiorentina — Roma
Genoa — H. Verona
Lazio — Bari
Lecce — Sampdoria
Milan — Bologna
Napoli — Atalanta
Udinese — Ascoli

Dec 10 (Apr 14):
Ascoli — Lazio
Atalanta — Udinese
Bari — Napoli
Bologna — Lecce
H. Verona — Fiorentina
Inter — Genoa
Juventus — Cesena
Roma — Cremonese
Sampdoria — Milan

Dec 17 (Apr 22):
Cesena — Sampdoria
Cremonese — Bari
Fiorentina — Inter
Genoa — Atalanta
Lecce — Ascoli
Milan — H. Verona
Napoli — Bologna
Roma — Juventus
Udinese — Lazio

Dec 30 (Apr 29):
Ascoli — Genoa
Atalanta — Fiorentina
Bari — Milan
Bologna — Roma
H. Verona — Cesena
Inter — Udinese
Juventus — Lecce
Lazio — Napoli
Sampdoria — Cremonese

THE NEW SEASON

THE CHALLEN

SPAIN

CAN John Toshack not only retain the league title which Real have won for the last four years but also satisfy their obsession with winning the European Cup for the first time since 1966? Can Johan Cruyff justify the £15m he has spent by breaking Real's domestic monopoly and taking the title to Barcelona for the first time since Terry Venables's triumph in 1985?

Can Javier Clemente keep his volatile president Jesus Gil at arm's length long enough for Atletico Madrid to mount a serious challenge?

Those are leading questions as the 1989-90 Spanish campaign kicks off.

Real Madrid and more especially their new coach John Toshack face a stern test under merciless scrutiny from the Bernabeu fans who now accept domestic glory as routine but are ravenous for European glory. Tosh has made radical changes to the playing system implanted by Leo Beenhakker, starting at the back where the Welshman sticks to the pattern he successfully adopted at Real Sociedad — a sweeper, two strong central defenders and two attacking full-backs who push forward to stiffen up a midfield where the main novelty is new, freer role given to Michel in the central position, whereas Beenhakker confined him to the right flank. And up front, the Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez now becomes Real's most advanced pawn, while Emilio 'The Vulture' Butrageno has been pulled slightly deeper in order to become more involved and to use his pace to better effect.

Some Madrid critics took a cursory glance at the formation and seeing an ostensibly five-man defence, accused Toshack of converting Real into a defensive outfit. Fortunately for Tosh, the players will have none of that. "This is anything but a defensive system", snapped left-back-cum-midfielder Rafael Gordillo. "If anything I'd say it's a risky system. But I think it works and it's a system that the players will enjoy putting into practice."

"It's early days yet," agrees The Vulture, "but the system seems very valid and I am sure it will bring good results for the team. I know I'm playing in a deeper role, but I enjoy what I'm doing and I think I can speak for the other members of the squad in that respect."

Tosh's system has also provoked a rapid turn-about from midfielder Michel

Cruyff snatched Michael Laudrup from Juventus to strengthen his attack

Ronald Koeman

Stern test for managers

who, at the end of last season announced he wanted to leave. "Under Toshack I have much greater freedom to express myself in midfield and I feel a lot happier," he announced during the pre-season build-up.

Considerably less happy was Rafael Gordillo. Early in the pre-season training camp at Cabeza de Manzaneda (where Bernd Schuster and several other players ended up sleeping on the floor because the beds were too soft) it became patent that the 32-year-old veteran figured only marginally in Tosh's plans. "To his credit," explains 'Gordi', "the boss called me in as soon as he noticed I felt down and he was man enough to talk while Valladolid, under new boss Josip Skoblar, could miss defender Hierro, sold to Real Madrid. Logrones, under new coach Jose Luis Romero, look to have built 'a nice little side'; Osasuna are desperately seeking foreign aid to back up Ashley Grimes. The main objective of the other sides, including newly-promoted Castellon, Rayo Vallecano, Mallorca and Tenerife, is simply to avoid relegation, although the latter have — in the words of a Spanish proverb — thrown the house out of the window by offering Oviedo boss Vicente Miera £400,000 for one season's work in the Canaries.

Offer

If bookmakers were allowed to operate in Spain, Real Madrid and Barcelona would probably rate as joint favourites with Atletico at slightly longer odds. The rest of the field start as also-rans. In Spain the new season is business as usual.

straight. He told me I had to be prepared to play 20 games or so this season as opposed to the 35 I played last year, and I've accepted that."

Toshack's first casualty came with the shock announcement on August 11th that sweeper Ricardo Gallego had been transferred to Udinese. According to Gallego and Real, the

MAJOR TRANSFERS IN SPAIN

PLAYER	FROM	TO	FEE
Koeman	PSV Eindhoven	Barcelona	£3,500,000
Loren	Real Sociedad	Ath. Bilbao	£1,500,000
Lineker	Barcelona	Tottenham	£1,250,000
Laudrup	Juventus	Barcelona	£1,100,000
F. Hierro	Valladolid	Real Madrid	£1,000,000
Ferreira	Ath. Bilbao	At. Madrid	£750,000
Ruggeri	Logrones	Real Madrid	£550,000
Carlos	At. Madrid	Oviedo	£350,000
Salva	Barcelona	Logrones	£250,000
Cristobal	Barcelona	Logrones	£200,000
Mejias	Murcia	Sevilla	£175,000
Grimes	Luton	Osasuna	£150,000
Toni	San Jose (Brazil)	Valencia	£140,000
Carrasco	Barcelona	Sochaux	Free

GERS

Italians had made an offer neither could refuse — £600,000 to the club and £900,000 to the player over three years — while at the other end of the city Atletico president Jesus Gil was insinuating that Real had actually paid £1m to offload the influential dressing-room ringleader.

Real may yet live to rue Gallego's adios, as there were many pre-season question marks over Bernd Schuster, the man chosen by Toshack to fill the vacant berth at sweeper. As Barcelona's new sweeper Ronald Koeman comments "Schuster is a magnificent player who has tremendous vision over the whole pitch as soon as he lifts his head. He sees things that the rest of us simply don't see. And his passing is out of this world, not only the long ball but also the short pass which destroys the opposing defence. He is a superb midfielder. As backstop some of these qualities are wasted. He is not special in the air, and there are question marks over his tackling."

Koeman, along with £1.1m Danish striker Michael Laudrup are the latest pieces Barcelona have bought to complete Cruyff's complex and expensive jigsaw. PSV sold Koeman to Barcelona in February, with payment of the £3.5m fee due on July 1st. On August 1st, with Barca on pre-season tour in Holland, the Eindhoven club finally spoke up and banned Koeman from playing until the Spaniards produced the guilders. Payment was made within days, but the incident served to reveal that Barcelona had financed the deal on a mortgage basis with a finance company — Ecofinance — retaining the rights on the player. Barcelona will now repay Ecofinance over four years, and the total cost of the Dutch sweeper including interest will be £5m, a figure which puts him right up in the Maradona class.

Despite spending £15m in just over a year, Cruyff is making no promises about the league title. His playing system (a picturesque 3-1-2-1-3) remains the same, with Koeman taking the no.4 shirt from Milla and Laudrup momentarily taking over the no.6 shirt from Bakero, whose ankle op will keep him out until mid-October. As former Spanish national team manager Domingo Balmanyo says "this Barcelona squad is so good it could be coached by telephone and if they don't win the league it won't be through lack of quality players."

Barcelona and Real will measure their strength in the Nou Camp on October 7th. "We were the moral champions last season," insists Barca president Josep Lluis Nunez, "because the referees gave Madrid at least seven points . . ."

"Nonez is always weeping and suffering," sneers his Atletico Madrid counterpart Jesus Gil, "but he never does anything." Gil has started the new season with a one-man crusade aimed at destroying the established pecking order. He has advocated changes in refereeing structure which, he reckons, would put an end to Real's 'favours' and he has shamelessly 'tapped' several Real players — among them striker Losada who almost accepted the bait during August, and midfielder Aldana. His latest target is none other than Butragueno, whose contract with Real expires in June. Gil has offered The Vulture £5m over the next four seasons.

In the meantime, former Bilbao and Espanol coach Javier Clemente has been building a side which, according to Spurs' boss Terry Venables, could nick the title while the Big Two are obsessed with watching each other. Clemente has resisted Juventus' attempts to steal European Bronze Boot winner Baltazar and his Portuguese strike partner Paulo Futre and has strengthened his squad by buying Pizo Gomez and Bustingorri from Osasuna; Abadia from Logrones; and the promising Alfredo from Division 2B side Getafe. All four are midfielders, while the centre of the defence has been strengthened with Ferreira of Athletic Bilbao.

Howard Kendall's Basque side are one of the few outsiders capable of surprising the Terrible Trio likely to dominate the league. Bilbao splashed out £1.5m on Real Sociedad striker Loren, and also acquired midfielders Ripodas from Osasuna and Iturrino from Real Sociedad. Kendall, however, is working under the handicap of having sectors of the Basque press against him, and some of them even went as far to demand his dismissal when he fielded his expensive striker Loren as emergency central defender for 20 minutes of a pre-season game in Belgium.

John Toshack

Sevilla fans are hoping that Argentine-born coach Vicente Cantatore — impressively successful at Valladolid — can produce better results from a quality squad which last season promised so much but achieved so little.

Elsewhere, Valencia seem unlikely to improve on their third place last season without solving their goalscoring problems.

SPANISH LEAGUE FIXTURES

Reverse dates in brackets

Sept 3 (Jan 21):
Real Oviedo — Castellon
Atletico Osasuna — Mallorca
Real Valladolid — Barcelona
Real Zaragoza — Rayo Vallecano
Athletic Club — Real Sociedad
Sevilla — Tenerife
Malaga — Celta
Cadiz — Logrones
Valencia — Atletico Madrid
Real Madrid — Real Sporting

Sept 10 (Jan 28):
Castellon — Real Madrid
Mallorca — Real Oviedo
Barcelona — Atletico Osasuna
Rayo Vallecano — Real Vallodolid Dpvo
Real Sociedad — Real Zaragoza
Tenerife — Athletic Club
Celtic — Sevilla
Logrones — Malaga
Atletico Madrid — Cadiz
Real Sporting — Valencia

Sept 17 (Jan 31):
Castellon — Mallorca
Real Oviedo — Barcelona
Atletico Osasuna — Rayo Vallecano
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Real Sociedad
Real Zaragoza — Tenerife
Athletic Club — Celta
Sevilla — Logrones
Malaga — Atletico Madrid
Cadiz — Real Sporting
Real Madrid — Valencia

Sept 24 (Feb 4):
Mallorca — Real Madrid
Barcelona — Castellon
Rayo Vallencano — Real Oviedo
Real Sociedad — Atletico Osasuna
Tenerife — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Celta — Real Zaragoza
Logrones — Athletic Club
Atletico Madrid — Sevilla
Real Sporting — Malaga
Valencia — Cadiz

Oct 1 (Feb 11):
Mallorca — Barcelona
Castellon — Rayo Vallecano
Real Oviedo — Real Sociedad
Atletico Osasuna — Tenerife
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Celta
Real Zaragoza — Logrones
Athletic Club — Atletico Madrid
Sevilla — Real Sporting
Malaga — Valencia
Real Madrid — Cadiz

Oct 8 (Feb 14):
Barcelona — Real Madrid
Rayo Vallecano — Mallorca
Real Sociedad — Castellon
Tenerife — Real Oviedo
Celta — Atletico Osasuna
Logrones — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Atletico Madrid — Real Zaragoza
Real Sporting — Athletic Club
Valencia — Sevilla
Cadiz — Malaga

Oct 15 (Feb 18):
Barcelona — Rayo Vallecano
Mallorca — Real Sociedad
Castellon — Tenerife
Real Oviedo — Celta
Atletico Osasuna — Logrones
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Atletico Madrid
Real Zaragoza — Real Sporting
Athletic Club — Valencia
Sevilla — Cadiz
Real Madrid — Malaga

Oct 22 (Feb 25):
Rayo Vallecano — Real Madrid
Real Sociedad — Barcelona
Tenerife — Mallorca
Celta — Castellon
Logrones — Real Oviedo
Atletico Madrid — Atletico Osasuna
Real Sporting — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Valencia — Real Zaragoza
Cadiz — Athletic Club
Malaga — Sevilla

Oct 29 (Mar 4):
Rayo Vallecano — Real Sociedad
Barcelona — Tenerife
Mallorca — Celta
Castellon — Logrones
Real Oviedo — Atletico Madrid
Atletico Osasuna — Real Sporting
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Valencia
Real Zaragoza — Cadiz
Athletic Club — Malaga
Real Madrid — Sevilla

Nov 5 (Mar 11):
Real Sociedad — Real Madrid
Tenerife — Rayo Vallecano
Celta — Barcelona
Logrones — Mallorca
Atletico Madrid — Castellon
Real Sporting — Real Oviedo
Valencia — Atletico Osasuna
Cadiz — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Malaga — Real Zaragoza
Sevilla — Athletic Club

Nov 12 (Mar 18):
Real Sociedad — Tenerife
Rayo Vallecano — Celta
Barcelona — Logrones
Mallorca — Atletico Madrid
Castellon — Real Sporting
Real Oviedo — Valencia
Atletico Osasuna — Cadiz
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Malaga
Real Zaragoz — Sevilla
Real Madrid — Athletic Club

Nov 19 (Mar 25):
Tenerife — Real Madrid
Celta — Real Sociedad
Logrones — Rayo Vallecano
Atletico Madrid — Barcelona
Real Sporting — Mallorca
Valencia — Castellon
Cadiz — Real Oviedo
Malaga — Atletico Osasuna
Sevilla — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Athletic Club — Real Zaragoza

Nov 26 (April 1):
Tenerife — Celta
Real Sociedad — Logrones
Rayo Vallecano — Atletico Madrid
Barcelona — Real Sporting
Mallorca — Valencia
Castellon — Cadiz
Real Oviedo — Malaga
Atletico Osasuna — Sevilla
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Athletic Club
Real Madrid — Real Zaragoza

Dec 3 (April 8):
Celta — Real Madrid
Logrones — Tenerife
Atletico Madrid — Real Sociedad
Real Sporting — Rayo Vallecano
Valencia — Barcelona
Cadiz — Mallorca
Malaga — Castellon
Sevilla — Real Oviedo
Athletic Club — Atletico Osasuna
Real Zaragoza — Real Valladolid Dpvo

Dec 10 (April 15):
Celta — Logrones
Tenerife — Atletico Madrid
Real Sociedad — Real Sporting
Rayo Vallecano — Valencia
Barcelona — Cadiz
Mallorca — Malaga
Castellon — Sevilla
Real Oviedo — Athletic Club
Atletico Osasuna — Real Zaragoza
Real Madrid — Real Valladolid Dpvo

Dec 17 (April 22):
Logrones — Real Madrid
Atletico Madrid — Celta
Real Sporting — Tenerife
Valencia — Real Sociedad
Cadiz — Rayo Vallecano
Malaga — Barcelona
Sevilla — Mallorca
Athletic Club — Castellon
Real Zaragoza — Real Oviedo
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Atletico Osasuna

Dec 30 (April 25):
Logrones — Atletico Madrid
Celta — Real Sporting
Tenerife — Valencia
Real Sociedad — Cadiz
Rayo Vallecano — Malaga
Barcelona — Sevilla
Mallorca — Athletic Club
Castellon — Real Zaragoza
Real Oviedo — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Real Madrid — Atletico Osasuna

Jan 7 (April 29):
Real Madrid — Atletico Madrid
Real Sporting — Logrones
Valencia — Celta
Cadiz — Tenerife
Malaga — Real Sociedad
Sevilla — Rayo Vallecano
Athletic Club — Barcelona
Real Zaragoza — Mallorca
Real Valladolid Dpvo — Castellon
Atletico Osasuna — Real Oviedo

Jan 14 (May 6):
Atletico Madrid — Real Sporting
Logrones — Valencia
Celta — Cadiz
Tenerife — Malaga
Real Sociedad — Sevilla
Rayo Vallecano — Athletic Club
Barcelona — Real Zaragoza
Mallorca — Real Valladolid Dpvo
Castellon — Atletico Osasuna
Real Oviedo — Real Madrid

THE NEW SEASON

BELGIUM

BY IAN MACLEOD

Champions Mechelen celebrate Cup-Winners' Cup success in 1988. But they could find it tough this time.

MECHELEN BUBBLE LOOKS SET TO BURST

AFTER the disappointment of failing to qualify for last year's European Championship finals, Belgium begin a new season flushed with hope and enthusiasm as the once feared Diables Rouge, having been rebuilt by manager Guy Thys, look set to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

But, if thoughts of the Mundial still seem premature, the domestic scene has been sufficiently lively to suggest that the reign of champions Mechelen may be short-lived. Being a successful provincial club can have its drawbacks, not the least of which is to resist the temptation to accept lucrative offers for the architects behind the rise to the top.

Moreover, when the country's greatest club, Anderlecht, dismayed by the club's low standards in recent times, are stung to the extent that they lure the championship-winning coach away, it put Mechelen's status firmly in perspective and suggested that the writing might be on the wall.

Mechelen's rapid rise from also-ran to champions has been a laudable achievement but, having been exponents of the defensive, counter-attacking style they failed to capture the public's imagination.

A glut to goals never did accompany many of Mechelen's matches. If Anderlecht, who scored 84 times in last season's league campaign — Mechelen scored 64 — could have had the services of a more competent defence the title race would have been much closer.

Rumours

The avowed desire of Mechelen's dynamic chairman, John Cordier to turn the club into a genuine European power was given a severe jolt in the latter part of last season.

Although Mechelen had always seemed to have something in hand in the title race, two events, one off the field, the other on it, offered a graphic illustration of the "us and them" attitude which still prevails in Belgian football.

Or, at least the latter did. With Anderlecht desperate to regain what they regard as their rightful place at the forefront of the nation's football, the rumours linking Mechelen coach, Aad de Mos with Parc Astrid, soon transpired to be fact.

Even the prospect of leading the new champions into the European Cup for the first time in the club's history failed to keep the progressive coach from moving to Anderlecht, a national institution rich in tradition but now fallen on hard times.

The other significant happening occurred in Genoa on a murky Wednesday afternoon in April. Mechelen, defending the Recopa, and a single goal lead from the home leg of the semi-final against Sampdoria, comfortably held out for 72 minutes in Genoa and then uncharacteristically lost three goals in the closing stages.

Sampdoria, a competent but hardly brilliant, side, had offered an alarming expose of the Belgium champions-elect. The manner of the victory did not seem encouraging for a side with even greater designs — on the main trophy itself.

Perhaps it was this, and the undoubted riches available at Parc Astrid, both for himself and in strengthening the side, which finally swayed de Mos to leave the cosy atmosphere of Mechelen for the veritable lions den in Brussels.

De Mos is not unaccustomed to success having led Ajax to the Dutch title in 1985, prior to his departure for Belgium. The crisis-ridden Brussels club having seen its European star wane in recent years, and concerned that a further decline in status could leave them in the cold if a European league ever materializes see the Belgian title as the first step towards the glory-glory days.

They did salvage something from an otherwise miserable season when they got the better of old rivals, Standard Liege in the cup final, courtesy of a goal apiece from two of the foreign colony, Krncevic and Jankovic.

This, at least, ensured Anderlecht's participation in the Recopa which, at one time in the mid 1970s, they had virtually made their own. But, the changes were already being effected and Krncevic's contribution to the cup win did not prove sufficient to prolong his stay. He has joined Mulhouse in France.

De Mos, aware of the need to improve a side which he knew to be of doubtful quality, looked no further than the port city of Antwerp and the medieval town of Brugge for the men to spearhead the new-look Anderlecht.

Money, of course, is quite plentiful when the need is sufficiently desperate and, in splashing out £1.3 million, a new domestic transfer record, for Brugge's highly rated striker, Marc Degryse, the club's intention was clear.

Degryse, though, was only part of

BELGIAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Reverse Dates in Brackets

Aug 16 (Jan 21):
KV Mechelen — AA Gent
Lokeren — Antwerp
Anderlecht — Waregem
Cercle Brugge — Club Luik
St.-Truiden — Beveren
Beerschot — Lierse
Standard — Club Brugge
Kortrijk — Germ. Ekeren
Charleroi — RC Mechelen

Aug 20 (Jan 28):
RC Mechelen — Lokeren
AA Gent — Charleroi
Germ. Ekeren — KV Mechelen
Club Brugge — Kortrijk
Lierse — Standard
Beveren — Beerschot
Club Luik — St.-Truiden
Waregem — Cercle Brugge
Antwerp — Anderlecht

Aug 30 (Feb 4):
KV Mechelen — Club Brugge
AA Gent — Germ. Ekeren
Anderlecht — RC Mechelen
Cercle Brugge — Antwerp
ST.-Truiden — Waregem
Beerschot —Club Luik
Standard — Beveren
Kortrijk — Lierse
Charleroi — Lokeren

Sept 10 (Feb 11):
RC Mechel — Cercle Brugge
Lokeren — Anderlecht
Germ. Ekeren — Charleroi
Club Brugge — AA Gent
Lierse — KV Mechelen
Beveren — Kortrijk
Club Luik — Standard
Waregem — Beerschot
Antwerp — St.-Truiden

Sept 17 (Feb 18):
KV Mechelen — Beveren
AA Gent — Lierse
Germ. Ekeren — Club Brugge
Cercle Brugge — Lokeren
St.-Truiden — RC Mechelen
Beerschot — Antwerp
Standard — Waregem
Kortrijk — Club Luik
Charleroi — Anderlecht

Sept 24 (Feb 25):
RC Mechelen — Beerschot
Lokeren — St.-Truiden
Anderlecht — Cercle Brugge
Club Brugge — Charleroi
Lierse — Germ. Ekeren
Beveren — AA Gent
Club Luik — KV Mechelen
Waregem — Kortrijk
Antwerp — Standard

Oct 1 (Mar 4):
KV Mechelen — Waregem
AA Gent — Club Luik
Germ. Ekeren — Beveren
Club Brugge — Lierse
St.-Truiden — Anderlecht
Beerschot — Lokeren
Standard — RC Mechelen
Kortrijk — Antwerp
Charleroi — Cercle Brugge

Oct 7 (Mar 11):
RC Mechelen — Kortrijk
Lokeren — Standard
Anderlecht — Beerschot
Cercle Brugge — St.-Truiden
Lierse — Charleroi
Beveren — Club Brugge
Club Luik — Germ. Ekeren
Waregem — AA Gent
Antwerp — KV Mechelen

Oct 15 (Mar 18):
KV Mechelen — RC Mechelen
AA Gent — Antwerp
Germ. Ekeren — Waregem
Club Brugge — Club Luik
Lierse — Beveren
Beerschot — Cercle Brugge
Standard — Anderlecht
Kortrijk — Lokeren
Charleroi — St.-Truiden

Oct 21 (Mar 25):
RC Mechelen — AA Gent
Lokeren — KV Mechelen
Anderlecht — Kortrijk
Cercle Brugge — Standard
St.-Truiden — Beerschot
Beveren — Charleroi
Club Luik — Lierse
Waregem — Club Brugge
Antwerp — Germ. Ekeren

Nov 5 (Apr 1):
KV Mechelen — Anderlecht
AA Gent — Lokeren
Germ. Ekeren — RC Mechelen
Club Brugge — Antwerp
Lierse — Waregem
Beveren — Club Luik
Standard — St.-Truiden
Kortrijk — Cercle Brugge
Charleroi — Beerschot

Nov 12 (Apr 8):
RC Mechel — Club Brugge
Lokeren — Germ. Ekeren
Anderlecht — AA Gent
Cercle Brugge — KV Mechelen
St.-Truiden — Kortrijk
Beerschot — Standard
Club Luik — Charleroi
Waregem — Beveren
Antwerp — Lierse

Nov 19 (Apr 22):
KV Mechelen — St.-Truiden
AA Gent — Cercle Brugge
Germ. Ekeren — Anderlecht
Club Brugge — Lokeren
Lierse — RC Mechelen
Beveren — Antwerp
Club Luik — Waregem
Kortrijk — Beerschot
Charleroi — Standard

Nov 26 (Apr 29):
RC Mechelen — Beveren
Lokeren — Lierse
Anderlecht — Club Brugge
Cercle Brugge — Germ. Ekeren
St.-Truiden — AA Gent
Beerschot — KV Mechelen
Standard — Kortrijk
Waregem — Charleroi
Antwerp — Club Luik

Dec 3 (May 6):
KV Mechelen — Standard
AA Gent — Beerchot
Germ. Ekeren — St.-Truiden
Club Brugge — Cercle Brugge
Lierse — Anderlecht
Beveren — Lokeren
Club Luik — RC Mechelen
Waregem — Antwerp
Charleroi — Kortrijk

Dec 10 (May 12):
RC Mechelen — Waregem
Lokeren — Club Luik
Anderlecht — Beveren
Cercle Brugge — Lierse
St.-Truiden — Club Brugge
Beerschot — Germ. Ekeren
Standard — AA Gent
Kortrijk — KV Mechelen
Charleroi — Antwerp

Dec 17 (May 19):
KV Mechelen — Charleroi
AA Gent — Kortrijk
Germ. Ekeren — Standard
Club Brugge — Beerschot
Lierse — St.-Truiden
Beveren — Cercle Brugge
Club Luik — Anderlecht
Waregem — Lokeren
Antwerp — RC Mechelen

the jigsaw. Next on the shopping list was the colourful Antwerp striker, Marc van der Linden who, playing alongside Degryse, in Belgium's World Cup qualifying match against Luxembourg in June, scored four times to reiterate, even with such modest opposition, that he may flourish in more exalted company.

The new strike force should encounter little difficulty in their first European outing — Ballymena, the Irish cup holders are traditionally, sacrificial lambs to the slaughter, and do not constitute any threat to the Brussels outfit.

The other Belgian clubs had mixed fortunes in the draw, and Mechelen should have no difficulty in disposing of Norweigan champions, Rosenborg. In the UEFA Cup, Liege, who enjoyed some moments of glory in last season's competition, face Akranes, of Iceland, and should progress.

Less certain is the progress of the remaining representatives, Antwerp, who travel to Sofia to face Vitosha, and Brugge who have to contend with the rejuvenated Dutch side, Twente Enschede, like their opponents, no strangers to European glory in the 1970s.

Mechelen will contest the new campaign with the Dutch connection

History

maintained by the appointment as coach, of Ruud Krol, the great Dutch international star of the 1970s. Krol's appointment was something of a surprise, given that his track record as a coach is scarcely comparable with his playing career.

Krol takes over at a critical junction in the club's history. Mechelen's success has not gone unnoticed in Europe, and for a club whose budget is more akin to a provincial club than a city giant, the temptation to sell is obvious.

And, if the loss of de Mos is seen as a blow to the club's future prospects, the departure of tall striker, Piet den Boer adds to Krol's woes. Den Boer, it was who, in May, 1988 scored the goal which beat Ajax to secure the Recopa and his powerful presence in the box will be sadly missed.

Den Boer's partner, Israel international Eli Ohana, whose goals also played a prominent part in that success, has been the subject of Italian advances ever since Mechelen outplayed Atalanta two years ago. Udinese made a lucrative offer for the player but, with the side already depleted, Ohana was persuaded to stay, for the time being at least. His departure, though, seems inevitable.

Joining den Boer at Bordeaux will be the man who has just vacated the Anderlecht post — former national team boss, the 66- year-old, Raymond Goethals who clearly must like the wine in the region given that it is his second spell with the Girondins.

Coming home from France is former international full back, George Heylens, who leaves Lille to take over at relegated Beerschot. Also arriving in the port, but with Antwerp, is the Yugoslav coach, Dimitri Davidovic, who replaces the irrepressible George Kessler, who, despite a lucrative offer from Feyenoord has finally decided to call it a day.

One of the more interesting arrivals is the former Rumanian Golden Boot winner, Rodion Camataru. The Dinamo Bucharest striker who in the 1986-87 season scored 44 goals in somewhat controversial circumstances now has the opportunity to show a new audience that he has been blessed with a genuine goalscorers' touch.

There is nothing to suggest that this season's title race will concern any club other than Anderlecht and Mechelen. But De Mos does not have an enviable task.

Anderlecht set a new Belgian transfer record when they paid. £1.3 million for striker Marc Degryse.

AUSTRIA Everyone is chasing Happel's heroes

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

AUSTRIA began their new league programme under the motto: "Everybody is chasing Tirol."

The Innsbruck outfit won the double last season — the first time since 1977 that the title wandered outside Vienna; it was then also won by the Innsbrucker, albeit in different guise. The Tyroleans have now set themselves two targets. Firstly, they want to retain the crown, secondly they intend to make an impact in the European Cup. First round opponents Omonia Nicosia (Cyprus) should not prove too difficult to overcome.

Manager Ernst Happel signed the 28-year-old Czechoslovak Vaclav Danek, an aggressive centre forward whom some experts compare to the former Hamburg giant Horst Hrubesch. Only one problem causes concern on the banks of the Inn. The mysterious knee injury afflicting Tirol's West German schemer Hansi Muller. Apparently doctors discovered at the end of last season a damaged ligament in the right knee on which Muller had been operated on twice, already.

The player relied on therapy to stabilise the joints, but in his first attempt at playing in the Inter-Toto-Cup he broke down and his immediate future is uncertain. Tirol engaged quickly the Argentine Nestor Gorosito, who will take on Muller's playmaker role for a longer spell if necessary.

Tirol's rivals are hoping to benefit from the champions debilitating loss. The big guns from Vienna have not strengthened their ranks, but they seemed to have acquired impressive managerial leaders.

Problem

Rapid bank on the coaching skills of their former famous striker Hans Krankl; he is expected to lead them back to glory. On the other hand the club parted with internationals Weber and Willfurth making Krankl's task that much harder.

FK Austria's new technical director, their former star Herbert Prohaska, has a problem in finding a worthy successor to himself, in midfield; runners-up Admira/Wacker are still counting on their West Germans Uwe Muller and Fred Schaub; First Vienna are also looking to a newly signed German Ralf Balzis; promoted Austria Salzburg are fervently hoping that their German manager Kurt Wiebach will at last end the fears of relegation.

HANSI MULLER. . . injury blow

AUSTRIAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 9:
Vienna — Sportklub
Austria — GAK
Krems — FC Tirol
Salzburg — Admira — Wacker
Steyr — St. Polten
Sturm — Rapid

Sept 16:
Rapid — Sportklub
St. Polten — Sturm
Admira — Wacker — Steyr
FC Tirol — Salzburg
GAK — Krems
Vienna — Austria

Sept 23:
Sportklub — Rapid
Sturm — St. Polten
Steyr — Admira — Wacker
Salzburg — FC Tirol
Krems — GAK
Austria — Vienna

Sept 30:
St. Polten — Rapid
Vienna — Krems
GAK — Salzburg
FC Tirol — Steyr
Admira — Wacker — Sturm
Austria — Sportklub

Oct 7:
Sportklub — St. Polten
Rapid — Admira — Wacker
Sturm — FC Tirol
Steyr — GAK
Salzburg — Vienna
Krems — Austria

Oct 10:
FC Tirol — Rapid
Admira — Wacker — St. Polten
Austria — Salzburg
Vienna — Steyr
GAK — Sturm
Krems — Sportklub

Oct 14:
Sportklub — Admira — Wacker
St. Polten — FC Tirol
Rapid — GAK
Sturm — Vienna
Steyr — Austria
Salzburg — Krems

Oct 28:
Vienna — Rapid
GAK — St. Polten
FC Tirol — Admira — Wacker
Krems — Steyr
Austria — Sturm
Salzburg — Sportklub

Nov 4:
Sportklub — FC Tirol
Admira — Wacker — GAK
St. Polten — Vienna
Rapid — Austria
Sturm — Krems
Steyr — Salzburg

Nov 7:
Krems — Rapid
Austria — St. Polten
Vienna — Admira — Wacker
GAK — FC Tirol
Salzburg — Sturm
Steyr — Sportklub

Nov 18:
Sportklub — GAK
FC Tirol — Vienna
Admira — Wacker — Austria
St. Polten — Krems
Rapid — Salzburg
Sturm — Steyr

Nov 25:
Steyr — Rapid
Salzburg — St. Polten
Krems — Admira — Wacker
Austria — FC Tirol
Vienna — GAK
Sturm — Sportklub

Dec 2:
Sportklub — Vienna
GAK — Austria
FC Tirol — Krems
Admira — Wacker — Salzburg
St. Polten — Steyr
Rapid — Sturm

THE NEW SEASON

HOLLAND

SURINAM AIR DISASTER CASTS A LONG SHADOW

BY SIMON KUPER

THE aeroplane accident in June over Surinam (the former Dutch West Indian colony) in which 12 Dutch footballers were killed, dominates everyone's thoughts at the start of Holland's new season. The dead were all men of Surinamese origin, and were on a post-season tour of the Dutch West Indies, where they were to play a series of matches under the name "The Colourful Team".

Almost half the clubs in the Dutch league had a player to mourn. Ajax's popular reserve goalkeeper Lloyd Doesburg was killed, as were Andy Scharmin of FC Twente Enschede, Fred Patrick of PEC Zwolle, Ruben Kogeldans of Willem 11, and Ortwin Linger of Haarlem. Sigi Lens of Fortuna Sittard was the only player to survive the crash itself, but it was also by the merest chance that Ajax's Bryan Roy and Stanley Menzo and Fortuna's Marcel Liesdek were not on the flight.

Surinamese players have been remarkably successful in Dutch football: Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Gerald Vanenburg are only the most striking examples. Holland's Surinamers form a close-knit community. They tend to live together in one section of Amsterdam, so many current professional footballers have been friends since childhood.

This closeness was apparent when Ruud Gullit tried to speak at the memorial service for the dead in Amsterdam: many of the victims had been friends of his, and he was so overcome by emotion that he could only speak very briefly.

Normally the atmosphere in August and September is one of euphoria and wildly unfounded optimism, but this year everyone in football is subdued.

Hat-trick

The Dutch league has little to cheer about in any case. Now that Ronald Koeman has left PSV for Barcelona, Holland's four best players are all with foreign clubs. PSV's attempts to sign one of the Milan trio, Rijkaard, predictably failed.

Instead of Rijkaard, the Eindhoven club signed Michel Boerebach from Roda Kerkrade and the Zambian international Kalusha Bwalya from Cercle Bruges. Kalusha became famous a year ago, at the Seoul Olympics, when he scored a hat trick to help Zambia beat Italy 4-0. European journalists could not understand why they had not heard of Kalusha. Now 26, Kalusha has signed a three-year contract with PSV.

Despite PSV's new acquisitions, and Gerald Vanenburg's rejection of Roma, Ajax are the favourites to win this year's championship. The Amsterdammers plugged the most worrying hole in their line-up when they signed the Hungarian Paul Fischer as a temporary replacement for their injured striker Stefan Pettersson. Sonny Silooy returns to Ajax from Racing Paris, and Ron Willems has recovered from the injury that kept him out of football for a year.

LLOYD DOESBURG. . . as Ajax fans knew him.

Below Ajax and PSV, Roda making sure that general manager Hans Kraay does not interfere with footballing matters. Kraay is supposed to concern himself only with finances, but Feyenoord's last two managers left because they felt that he was trying to do their job for them. The theory is that the tough Van der Gijp will protect Verbeek from Kraay's influence. Verbeek is extremely inexperienced: before Feyenoord he had only worked at tiny De Graafschap. He is Feyenoord's third manager in three years.

Verbeek faces a difficult task. His aim must be to finish third, but last season Feyenoord came fourth just behind Twente Enschede, and Twente have been very successful on the transfer market.

They managed to keep their two stars, Fred Rutten and Pieter Huistra, despite receiving several offers for them. For a long time it looked as though Huistra would go to PSV, but in the end the Dutch champions lost interest. Huistra, 22, has already played for Holland and is improving all the time. Twente will be glad to have another season of him.

Twente's only major signing is Per Steffensen, a midfielder from Danish champions Brondby. Steffensen, 26, is an ambitious man who expects to do well in the Dutch league. "Almost all Danes have had a good experience in Holland, so it would be strange if I

DUTCH LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 9/10:
Feyenoord — FC Groningen
Fortuna Sittard — BVV Den Bosch
FC Utrecht — Willem II
FC Volendam — Roda JC
RKC — NEC
PSV — Ajax
MVV — FC Den Haag
FC Twente — Sparta
Vitesse — Haarlem

Sept 16/17:
Ajax — RKC
NEC — FC Volendam
Roda JC — FC Utrecht
Willem II — Fortuna Sittard
BVV Den Bosch — Feyenoord
FC Groningen — Haarlem
FC Twente — Vitesse
Sparta — MVV
FC Den Haag — PSV

Sept 23/24:
Haarlem — BVV Den Bosch
Feyenoord — Willem II
Fortuna Sittard — Roda JC
FC Utrecht — NEC
FC Volendam — Ajax
RKC — FC Den Haag
PSV — Sparta
MVV — FC Twente
Vitesse — FC Groningen

Sept 30/Oct 1:
Ajax — FC Utrecht
NEC — Fortuna Sittard
Roda JC — Feyenoord
Willem II — Haarlem
BVV Den Bosch — FC Groningen
MVV — Vitesse
FC Twente — PSV
Sparta — RKC
FC Den Haag — FC Volendam

Oct 14/15:
FC Groningen — Willem II
Haarlam — Roda JC
Feyenoord — NEC
Fortuna Sittard — Ajax
FC Utrecht — FC Den Haag
FC Volendam — Sparta
RKC — FC Twente
PSV — MVV
Vitesse — BVV Den Bosch

Oct 21/22:
Ajax — Feyenoord
NEC — Haarlem
Roda JC — Groningen
Willem II — BVV Den Bosch
PSV — Vitesse
MVV — RKC
FC Twente — FC Volendam
Sparta — FC Utrecht
FC Den Haag — Fortuna Sittard

Oct 28/29:
BVV Den Bosch — Roda JC
FC Groningen — NEC
Haarlem — Ajax
Feyenoord — FC Den Haag
Fortuna Sittard — Sparta
FC Utrecht — FC Twente
FC Volendam — MVV
RKC — PSV
Vitesse — Willem II

Nov 4/5:
Ajax — FC Groningen
NEC — BVV Den Bosch
Roda JC — Willem II
RKC — Vitesse
PSV — FC Volendam
MVV — FC Utrecht
FC Twente — Fortuna Sittard
Sparta — Feyenoord
FC Den Haag — Haarlem

Nov 18/19:
Willem II — NEC
BVV Den Bosch — Ajax
FC Groningen — FC Den Haag
Haarlem — Sparta
Feyenoord — FC Twente
Fortuna Sittard — MVV
FC Utrecht — PSV
FC Volendam — RKC
Vitesse — Roda JC

Nov 25/26:
Ajax — Willem II
NEC — Roda JC
FC Volendam — Vitesse
RKC — FC Utrecht
PSV — Fortuna Sittard
MVV — Feyenoord
FC Twente — Haarlem
Sparta — FC Groningen
FC Den Haag — BVV Den Bosch

Dec 2/3:
NEC — Vitesse
Roda JC — Ajax
Willem II — FC Den Haag
BVV Den Bosch — Sparta
FC Groningen — FC Twente
Haarlem — MVV
Feyenoord — PSV
Fortuna Sittard — RKC
FC Utrecht — FC Volendam

Dec 16/17:
Ajax — NEC
FC Volendam — Fortuna Sittard
RKC — Feyenoord
PSV Haarlem
MVV — FC Groningen
FC Twente — BVV Den Bosch
Sparta — Willem II
FC Den Haag — Roda JC
Vitesse — FC Utrecht

Dec 23/24:
Vitesse — Ajax
FC Den Haag — NEC
Sparta — Roda JC
FC Twente — Willem II
MVV — BVV Den Bosch
PSV — FC Groningen
RKC — Haarlem
FC Volendam — Feyenoord
FC Utrecht — Fortuna Sittard

didn't," he says. Steffensen is on the fringe of the Danish national team, and his transfer is a big coup for Twente.

Another level down, in mid-table, play five very unfortunate clubs. Haarlem, Den Bosch, Sparta Rotterdam, Utrecht and Fortuna Sittard start every season with nothing to play for. They have no chance of winning the championship, practically none of qualifying for Europe, while at the same time they are never threatened by relegation. These clubs have a constant struggle to keep their fans — and the players — interested. Because nobody comes to watch, there is no money to buy new players, which means that nobody comes to watch. Haarlem have tried to break the vicious circle by appointing a fund-raiser, the charismatic Welshman Barry Hughes, who once managed the club.

Volendam, MVV Maastricht, Willem 11 Tilburg, RKC Waalwijk, NEC Nijmegen and Vitesse Arhem will struggle to resist relegation. NEC and Vitesse are the most likely candidates for the drop: they have just been promoted to the premier division, and in the Dutch league what goes up usually comes down very quickly.

Den Haag, who won promotion with NEC and Vitesse, look safer. But Den Haag has a problem off the field. The club has a large following of hooligans, the source of chronic disruption when Den Haag was last in the premier division. If they get out of hand again, Den Haag may be suspended from the Dutch league for one or even two seasons. With the league in such a sorry state, it cannot afford to lose a side as entertaining as Den Haag. Ajax and Feyenoord also have their loutish fans, so this could be a violent season.

Dutch clubs won European trophies in 1987 and 1988. In the climate of this season, another success would come Kerkrade, Groningen, Feyenoord and Twente Enschede have entered their annual struggle for places in the UEFA Cup. There is little to choose between these teams: Feyenoord, despite four signings, look no stronger than last season; Groningen and Twente have kept most of their important players while failing to find many new ones; and Roda suffered a serious loss when midfielder Wilbert Suvrijn, an occasional international, departed for Montpelier.

Pressures

Feyenoord, traditionally one of Holland's Big Three, have lost ground in recent year, and their signings are sound players who are not quite good enough to raise the side to the level of Ajax and PSV. Players like that do well at minor clubs, but usually cannot face the pressures of playing for a high-profile outfit like Feyenoord, and as a result they tend to fail in Rotterdam.

Feyenoord's new striker is Pieter Keur, who comes from Twente. Keur was Twente's highest scorer in each of the last two years, but he nevertheless failed to satisfy manager Theo Vonk. His reputation as a high-liver has earned him much disapproval in the strict world of Dutch football.

Keur turned down lucrative offers from Racing Mechelen and Olympique Nimes to join Feyenoord. The Rotterdam club originally wanted to plug the hole in their attack with Groningen's Rene Eijckelkamp, but when that deal fell through they signed Keur. Keur, 28, will undoubtedly get his share of goals for Feyenoord, but he will not win the club a European trophy or draw 60,000 people to the stadium.

Feyenoord's other signing is Jan Mulder, a 28-year-old left- back. But Mulder, like Keur, is a good club player rather than a star.

VANENBURG . . staying on

SWISS

Rumo's revolution won't get off the ground

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE start of the Swiss championship was once again overshadowed by heated discussions over the future format of the National League.

Fredy Rumo 45, for ten years president of the League and now central president of the Swiss Football Federation (SFV), has presented yet another set of proposals aimed at improving the currently poor state of Helvetian football.

Decisiur

His main suggestion that the league championship should be staged between March and November is certain to be rejected, however, because of the demands of the general European set up. The international tournaments and the transfer period make it difficult, if not unrealistic to change the present calender of fixtures.

The Swiss must for climatic reasons put up with a 2.5 month long winter break. In the winter, however, there are no players put up for sale on the international market. Playing till November would have the disadvantage of staging the decisive matches at the worst time, on grounds heavy and often unplayable. In the summer months there would be fewer spectators because of the holiday time.

Only if the majority of Europeans were to change their playing season could a similar format suit Switzerland. Now Rumo proposes that the First Division be comprised of 12 teams playing each other twice, like now, but the championship play-off should only embrace six teams instead of eight playing currently each other home and away.

The transfer period was extremely busy and the best buys report AArau with the Poland midfielder Ryszard Komornicki and the West German sweeper Wilfried Hannes. Grasshoppers hired the Argentinian Adrian de Vicente; Lausanne the Dutchman Frank Verlaat.

Lucerne engaged the Danish international John Eriksen; Servette took on the Yugoslav Bosko Djurovski, the Argentinian Oscar Acosta, the French international Philippe Fargeon and the Swiss international Kubilay Turkyilmaz. Sion are strengthened by the Argentinian World Cup star Nestor Clausen and the German Jurgen Mohr; Wettingen signed the Swede Dan Corneliusson.

Dan Corneliusson signed for Wettington

SWISS LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 9:
Lausanne — Bellinzona
Lugano — Servette
Luzern — Aarau
Neuchatel Xamax — St. Gallen
Sion — Young Boys
Wettingen — Grasshoppers

Sept 16:
Aarau — Lugano
Bellinzona — Wettingen
Grasshoppers — Xamax
St. Gallen — Lausanne
Servette — Sion
Young Boys — Luzern

Sept 23:
Lugano — Bellinzona
Luzern — Grasshoppers
Servette — Lausanne
Sion — St. Gallen
Wettingen — Aarau
Young Boys — Neuchatel Xamax

Sept 30:
Bellinzona — Luzern
Grasshoppers — Lugano
Lausanne — Aarau
Neuchatel Xamax — Sion
St. Gallen — Young Boys
Wettingen — Servette

Oct 7:
Aarau — St. Gallen
Lugano — Neuchatel Xamax
Luzern — Lausanne
Servette — Grasshoppers
Sion — Wettingen
Young Boys — Bellinzona

Oct 14:
Bellinzona — Aarau
Grasshoppers — Sion
Lausanne — Young Boys
Neuchatel Xamax — Servette
St. Gallen — Luzern
Wettingen — Lugano

Oct 28:
Aarau — Grasshoppers
Lugano — Lausanne
Luzern — Neuchatel Xamax
Servette — St. Gallen
Sion — Bellinzona
Young Boys — Wettingen

Nov 5:
Bellinzona — Servette
Grasshoppers — Young Boys
Lausanne — Sion
Neuchatel Xamax — Aarau
St. Gallen — Lugano
Wettingen — Luzern

Nov 11:
Aarau — Sion
Bellinzona — Grasshoppers
Lausanne — Neuchatel Xamax
Luzern — Lugano
St. Gallen — Wettingen
Young Boys — Servette

Nov 19:
Grasshoppers — St. Gallen
Lugano — Young Boys
Neuchatel Xamax — Bellinzona
Servette — Aarau
Sion — Luzern
Wettingen — Lausanne

Nov 26:
Aarau — Young Boys
Lausanne — Grasshoppers
Lugano — Sion
Luzern — Servette
Neuchatel Xamax — Wettingen
St. Gallen — Bellinzona

Dec 3:
Aarau — Luzern
Bellinzona — Lausanne
Grasshoppers — Wettingen
St. Gallen — Neuchatel Xamax
Servette — Lugano
Young Boys — Sion

Dec 10:
Lausanne — St. Gallen
Lugano — Aarau
Luzern — Young Boys
Xamax — Grasshoppers
Sion — Servette
Wettingen — Bellinzona

THE NEW SEASON

FRANCE

BIG SPEND MYSTERY GAME

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

WHAT with Marseille spending a fortune on new players, and trying to spend an even greater fortune on Diego Maradona, what with Bordeaux clearing out former stars and bringing in new ones, what with Racing Club de Paris, ex Matra, tenuously clinging to life, the new season, beginning as absurdly early as ever, is full of potential and even mystery.

Spend, spend, spend appears to be the policy of Bernard Tapie of Marseille. The £4.5 million that brought Chris Waddle must have seemed an astonishing windfall to Spurs, who had paid only a third of that for a much more established international in Gary Lineker. The situation looks the stranger when you think that Waddle, supposedly, was about fifth on the list for Tapie, who was allegedly in for Glenn Hoddle, Waddle's pal. But Monaco refused to sell him.

Klaus Allofs has gone — to Bordeaux, as has that superb all round sweeper, Patrick Battiston, a veteran now, but surely an immensely effective and versatile one. Monaco have signed that powerful African central defender, Mendy, from Toulon. Bordeaux needed Battiston to replace a much younger international in Roche, who has also been snapped up by Marseille. The arrival there from Bordeaux of Jean Tigana must be a rather less predictable move. Tigana, comfortably into his thirties now, has superb talent, but when he was briefly brought back into the French national team last season by Michel Platini, age had plainly taken its toll.

Other fine international defenders have arrived at Marseille, for their tilt at the European Cup; Tapie's great crusade. Mozer, the powerful Brazilian international centre-half — unable, though, to win a place in the Brazil team which recently won the South American Championship — arrives from Benfica. That lively overlapping French full-back, Amoros, comes from Monaco, who must be sick at losing him. Enzo Francescoli at last left Racing to join Tapie's merry men for a 'mere £2 million.'

Candidate

Bordeaux, letting Jesper Olsen go after paying £850,000 for the little blond Danish winger less than a season ago — Manchester United must be rubbing their hands — acquire two international full-backs themselves. A little surprising that one of them should be the veteran Manny Kaltz. The other, Ayache, is strangely only on loan from Nantes for a year. Take into account that the French international full-back Thouvenel is another candidate and you will see there will be competition for places. There is already talk of using Kaltz as a stopper. A bit strange when you remember that for years the Hamburg man was prized above all for his powerful overlapping down the right.

Den Boer, the big, thrustful Malines centre-forward, a Dutchman who has done so well in European Cup football, is another acquisition by Bordeaux, who are now managed by the veteran Belgian, Raymond Goethals (66). Age shall not wither this amazingly resilient old fellow.

What of Caen, where Graham Rix and Brian Stein, perhaps even to their own surprise, find themselves still in the 1st Division? Rix will be in the midfield again, Brian Stein can carry on up front beside the revelation of last season, the local lad made good, Fabrice Divert. But there are no fewer than eight new players, and we shall have to see how the team beds down.

One is a little known Uruguayan stopper from the little known club, Bella Vista, Panzardo. The experienced Rio comes from Nantes on a four year contract, slated for midfield, and in exactly the same position is another expert midfielder in Dewilder, of Bordeaux. Rix should have a bit more support, this time out.

Lyon, promoted, have rather surprisingly added the Irish international stopper Mick McCarthy, from Celtic, to their strength. Has he the requisite pace? We shall see. But you will know that Frank Stapleton, after a useful season with Le Havre in Division II, has signed for Blackburn Rovers, after he and his family failed to settle in Northern France.

Brest are up, again, as well. They will be expecting great things from the Paraguayan star they brought from Colombia with so much difficulty, that gifted striker Cabanas, who once played for the New York Cosmos but, like his fellow former Cosmos, Roberito, missed July's South

Right: Jesper Olsen.

Left: Enzo Francescoli.

ERS PLAY THE

Jean Tigana.

American Championships with an injury.

Paris Saint-Germain, pipped on the post for the title by Marseille, have managed to keep Tomislav Ivic, who radically transformed last season a team which had barely dabbled in the transfer market, his fellow Yugoslav, 33 year old Safet Susic, whom he fell out with expensively near the end of the season, and Christian Perez, the international winger on loan from Montpellier, who changed their minds about him after first wanting him back.

Bensoussau, the talented but somewhat erratic Caen keeper, comes on a 1 year contract, plainly as back up to Joel Bats. Zlatko Vujovic, the Yugoslav international, a prolific striker, comes on a three year contract, after just one year at Cannes. The big French international stopper, Yvon Le Roux, the man sent off in the European Final of 1984 at the same Parc des Princes, arrives to shore up the defence, while Daniel Bravo, the quick Nice winger, should give more drive to the attack. The transfer policy has been a sharp contrast with what one might call the productive inertia of a year ago.

Montpellier, of course, have been great spenders, acquiring the current international centre-forward, Stephane Paille, who will surely be missed by Sochaux, plus, on loan, the ever controversial and explosive striker Eric Cantona, cast into outer darkness last season both by France and by his club, Marseille. One year is the length of his loan; initially, at least. Daniel Xuereb, the Paris SG and France striker, is still another recruit for an attack which must now do without that superbly durable veteran, Roger Milla, of the Cameroons.

And Racing Club? Well, at least they have Poland's Henry Kaspercazk to manage them. A goodish start.

FRENCH LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 9
Metz — Nice
Montpellier — Toulouse
Racing P.1 — Paris SG
Monaco — Marseille
Sochaux — Mulhouse
Brest — Cannes
Lille — Auxerre
St-Etienne — Lyon

Sept 16:
Lyon — Lille
Marseille — St-Etienne
Nantes — Sochaux
Auxerre — Toulon
Toulouse — Racing P.1
Mulhouse — Brest
Nice — Montpellier
Paris SG — Monaco
Metz — Caen
Bordeaux — Cannes

Sept 23:
Montpellier — Metz
Cannes — Paris SG
Racing Paris 1 — Nice
Monaco — Bordeaux
Sochaux — Tolouse
Brest — Lyon
Lille — Nantes
Caen — Mulhouse
Toulon — Marseille
St-Etienne — Auxerre

Sept 30:
Lyon — Caen
Marseille — Brest
Nantes — St-Etienne
Auxerre — Monaco
Toulouse — Lille
Mulhouse — Cannes
Nice — Sochaux
Paris SG — Bordeaux
Metz — Toulon
Montpellier — Racing P1

Oct 4:
Bordeaux — Mulhouse
Cannes — Lyon
Racing Paris 1 — Metz
Monaco — Nantes
Sochaux — Montpellier
Brest — Auxerre
Lille — Marseille
Caen — Paris SG
Toulon — Nice
St-Etienne — Toulouse

Oct 14:
Lyon — Monaco
Marseille — Cannes
Nantes — Brest
Auxerre — Bordeaux
Toulouse — Caen
Mulhouse — Paris SG
Nice — St-Etienne
Metz — Sochaux
Montpellier — Toulon
Racing Paris 1 — Lille

Oct 21:
Paris SG — Lyon
Bordeaux — Marseille
Cannes — Auxerre
Monaco — Mulhouse
Sochaux — Racing P1
Brest — Toulouse
Lille — Montpellier
Caen — Nice
Toulon — Nantes
St-Etienne — Metz

Oct 28:
Lyon — Bordeaux
Marseille — Paris SG
Nantes — Cannes
Auxerre — Mulhouse
Toulouse — Monaco
Nice — Brest
Metz — Lille
Montpellier — St-Etienne
Racing Paris 1 — Toulon
Sochaux — Caen

Nov 4:
Mulhouse — Marseille
Paris SG — Auxerre
Bordeaux — Nantes
Cannes — Toulouse
Monaco — Nice
Brest — Metz
Lille — Sochaux
Caen — Montpellier
Toulon — Lyon
St-Etienne — Racing P1

Nov 8:
Lyon — Mulhouse
Marseille — Auxerre
Nantes — Paris SG
Toulouse — Bordeaux
Nice — Cannes
Metz — Monaco
Montpellier — Brest
Racing Paris 1 — Caen
Sochaux — St-Etienne
Lille — Toulon

Nov 11:
Auxerre — Lyon
Mulhouse — Nantes
Paris SG — Toulouse
Bordeaux — Nice
Cannes — Metz
Monaco — Montpellier
Brest — Racing Paris 1
Caen — Marseille
Toulon — Sochaux
St-Etienne — Lille

Nov 25:
Nantes — Marseille
Toulouse — Lyon
Nice — Auxerre
Metz — Paris SG
Montpellier — Mulhouse
Racing P.1 — Bordeaux
Sochaux — Monaco
Little — Brest
Toulon — Cannes
St-Etienne — Caen

Dec 3:
Lyon — Nantes
Marseille — Toulouse
Auxerre — Metz
Mulhouse — Nice
Paris SG — Sochaux
Bordeaux — Montpellier
Cannes — Racing P.1
Monaco — Lille
Brest — St-Etienne
Caen — Toulon

Dec 10:
Toulouse — Auxerre
Nice — Lyon
Metz — Marseille
Montpellier — Paris SG
Racing Paris 1 — Nantes
Sochaux — Bordeaux
Lille — Cannes
Caen — Brest
Toulon — Mulhouse
St-Etienne — Monaco

Dec 17:
Lyon — Metz
Marseille — Nice
Nantes — Toulouse
Auxerre — Montpellier
Mulhouse — Racing P1
Paris SG — St-Etienne
Bordeaux — Lille
Cannes — Sochaux
Monaco — Caen
Brest — Toulon

Feb 4:
Nice — Nantes
Metz — Mulhouse
Montpellier — Marseille
Racing P1 — Auxerre
Sochaux — Lyon
Brest — Monaco
Lille — Paris SG
Caen — Cannes
Toulon — Toulouse
St-Etienne — Bordeaux

Feb 11:
Lyon — Montpellier
Marseille — Racing P1
Nantes — Metz
Auxerre — Sochaux
Toulouse — Nice
Mulhouse — Lille
Paris SG — Brest
Bordeaux — Caen
Cannes — St-Etienne
Monaco — Toulon

Feb 21:
Metz — Toulouse
Montpellier — Nantes
Racing Paris 1 — Lyon
Monaco — Cannes
Sochaux — Marseille
Brest — Bordeaux
Lille — Nice
Caen — Auxerre
Toulon — Paris SG
St-Etienne — Mulhouse

Feb 25:
Lyon — St-Etienne
Marseille — Monaco
Nantes — Caen
Auxerre — Lille
Toulouse — Montpellier
Mulhouse — Sochaux
Nice — Metz
Paris SG — Racing P.1
Bordeaux — Toulon
Cannes — Brest

Mar 3:
Montpellier — Nice
Cannes — Bordeaux
Racing P1 — Toulouse
Monaco — Paris SG
Sochaux — Nantes
Brest — Mulhouse
Lille — Lyon
Caen — Metz
Toulon — Auxerre
St-Etienne — Marseille

Mar 17:
Lyon — Brest
Marseille — Toulon
Nantes — Lille
Auxerre — St-Etienne
Toulouse — Sochaux
Mulhouse — Caen
Nice — Racing Paris 1
Paris SG — Cannes
Metz — Montpellier
Bordeaux — Monaco

Mar 24:
Bordeaux — Paris SG
Cannes — Mulhouse
Racing P 1 — Montpelier
Monaco — Auxerre
Sochaux — Nice
Brest — Marseille
Lille — Toulouse
Caen — Lyon
Toulon — Metz
St-Etienne — Nantes

Mar 31:
Lyon — Cannes
Marseille — Lille
Nantes — Monaco
Auxerre — Brest
Toulouse — St-Etienne
Mulhouse — Bordeaux
Nice — Toulon
Paris SG — Caen
Metz — Racing Paris 1
Montpellier — Sochaux

Apr 7:
Paris SG — Mulhouse
Bordeaux — Auxerre
Cannes — Marseille
Monaco — Lyon
Sochaux — Metz
Brest — Nantes
Lille — Racing Paris 1
Caen — Toulouse
Toulon — Montpellier
St-Etienne — Nice

Apr 14:
Lyon — Paris SG
Marseille — Bordeaux
Nantes — Toulon
Auxerre — Cannes
Toulouse — Brest
Mulhouse — Monaco
Nice — Caen
Metz — St-Etienne
Montpellier — Lille
Racing P 1 — Sochaux

Apr 21:
Mulhouse — Auxerre
Paris SG — Marseille
Bordeaux — Lyon
Cannes — Nantes
Monaco — Toulouse
Brest — Nice
Lille — Metz
Caen — Sochaux
Toulon — Racing Paris 1
St-Etienne — Montpellier

Apr 28:
Lyon — Toulon
Marseille — Mulhouse
Nantes — Bordeaux
Auxerre — Paris SG
Toulouse — Cannes
Nice — Monaco
Metz — Brest
Montpellier — Caen
Racing P.1 — St-Etienne
Sochaux — Lille

May 5:
Auxerre — Marseille
Mulhouse — Lyon
Paris SG — Nantes
Bordeaux — Toulouse
Cannes — Nice
Monaco — Metz
Brest — Montpellier
Caen — Racing Paris 1
Toulon — Lille
St-Etienne — Sochaux

May 12:
Lyon — Auxerre
Marseille — Caen
Nantes — Mulhouse
Toulouse — Paris SG
Nice — Bordeaux
Metz — Cannes
Montpellier — Monaco
Racing Paris 1 — Brest
Sochaux — Toulon
Lille — St-Etienne

May 19:
Marseille — Lyon
Auxerre — Nantes
Mulhouse — Toulouse
Paris SG — Nice
Bordeaux — Metz
Cannes — Montpellier
Monaco — Racing P.1
Brest — Sochaux
Caen — Lille
St-Etienne — Toulon

WHEN in the customary steaming heat of summer, the French began their championship in Lyon last July, Chris Waddle and Mick McCarthy, the new arrivals from Britain, found themselves in direct and contrasted opposition (right).

For Waddle, the problem was simply one of whether, and how soon, he could adjust to his team and tactics. Marseille, having spent a fortune, would be interested in nothing less than retaining their title. For McCarthy, the question was one of sheer survival; his own, and that of Lyon, his newly promoted team. A question exacerbated by the fact that he was expected to operate not as a zonal central defender, but as a sweeper.

Giving away a fatuously soft goal in the first few minutes, Lyon were 3-0 down before the quarter hour. McCarthy booted one ball off the line with his keeper beaten, got in a tackle or two, hit one excellent long pass out to the left wing (he couldn't have dome much, he observed drily, if I remembered that) and did not have to face Waddle until after the interval.

Asked what he thought of Waddle's performance, he replied, good naturedly: "He's a pain in the backside!" This, he quickly made clear, was meant as a compliment.

Troubles over his transfer, with his consequent late arrival, meant that Waddle had had only two and a half days' training. He was stiff, he said, before the game. But as McCarthy

Lessons in style for Waddle and McCarthy

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

remarked, things worked out perfectly for him: the fact that Lyon, to quote McCarthy again, conceded in the first half three goals which were gifts made it practicable to bring on Waddle for the second half.

He didn't, as he himself said, do at all badly. There was a delicate through ball from the left which sent a colleague racing in on goal, and a characteristic cross from the right, a left footed inswinger, which very nearly brought a goal, as the ball rebounded between attacker and goalkeeper.

Much more significant and important than any of this, however, was the moment when, ten minutes from the end, Jean- Pierre Papin went off the field and asked M. Vautrot, that distinguished referee, to hand his skipper's armband to Waddle. "C'etait prevu!" joked the young Marseille manager, Gerard Gili, when I asked him about it, after the game.

What it represents was a generous and friendly gesture by Papin, the chief mover and shaker of the Marseille team, friendly, ebullient but explosive, a young man of evident strong likes and dislikes. "Un tipe euperbe!" a terrific chap he had said to me about Waddle, before the game.

"I saw him looking a bit lonely, so I phoned my wife and invited him back to my house, for a meal." He was sure, said Papin, last season's top League scorer, current French international striker, author of a hat trick in the Cup Final, that when Waddle was fully fit and adjusted, they would play very well together. "A good dribbler, good with his head, like all the English."

One hopes all goes well, though I am perhaps a little less sanguine than Papin and than Bernard Tapie, the young, exuberant, jaunty, slightly raffish tycoon who shelled out so much money for Waddle. When, in the dressing-room corridor, I suggested to Tapie that Marseille might have to change their tactics, he replied that they had no tactics. The idea that attackers should just attack, defenders should just defend, was ridiculous. Nevertheless, he also said that Waddle would not be used in a striker's role, but would play in a deeper position. Waddle, said Tapie, was "adorable."

Pressure

Waddle himself was very happy with the kind of football played. It was, he said cheerfully, Total Football, in which every man was a footballer, and the long ball was seldom used. In England, the custom was to put pressure on the back four, but in France, defenders were so "comfortable on the ball" it was a waste of time; you would probably get it only twice in ten attempts. In so far as the methods often seemed to leave you one on one, this was ideal for him, this was his game.

With Papin able to speak pretty good English ("I have the basics, but not the vocabulary") there is another plus for Waddle who, like McCarthy, means to get down to his French, but may not find it easy.

McCarthy lamented that while he had been told a few useful words of the language, and while one did not need many words on a football field, it was frustrating not to be able to find them, in the heat of the moment. "It's so easy to say it in English." As for Lyon, "They're a young team, and when any team goes three goals down, it's difficult, but for your players, it's harder still . . . Chris Waddle played well, but he came on in a side that was winning 3-0. It was a great situation for him. Chris is a very, very good player, and I'm sure he'll be an instant success, here.

"It's going to be difficult for us, it always is for a team that's just been promoted. Everybody tried very hard. I said before the game, especially playing these sides, if you give them a goal in the first 10 or 15 minutes, they're such good players, they'll get confidence. My feet are covered in blisters. I've lost four and a half kilos."

But he would not accept his employment as a sweeper as any kind of excuse — "I'm old enough and daft enough and experienced enough to adapt to a system."

The trouble so evidently was that the system didn't work, not only because McCarthy himself looked slow and ill at ease but because his two marking centre-backs, Knapp and N'Gotty, were so hopelessly inadequate, perpetually being beaten for pace and power, or by balls which caught them on the turn, when played over their heads.

In the first half, the Lyon defence split time and again, like a rotten banana. In the second, it was noticeable how often the Marseille defence was split in just the same way, despite the presence (or perhaps, who knows, because of the presence) of the two expensive new international purchases, Mozer (Brazil) and Roche (France) at centre-back.

Mozer, cool and accomplished, actually went upfield to score a goal, and Roche had a good strike or two, but there was clearly still much work to be done, not least so far as Bernard Tapie's true ambition, the European Cup, was concerned.

The Anglophone Gerard Houllier, once manager of Paris Saint-Germain when it romped to the Championship, now assistant manager of the French international team, was at the game and said, "Waddle's out of condition at the moment, I think he must lose two or three kilos, but he's got something I like in his feet."

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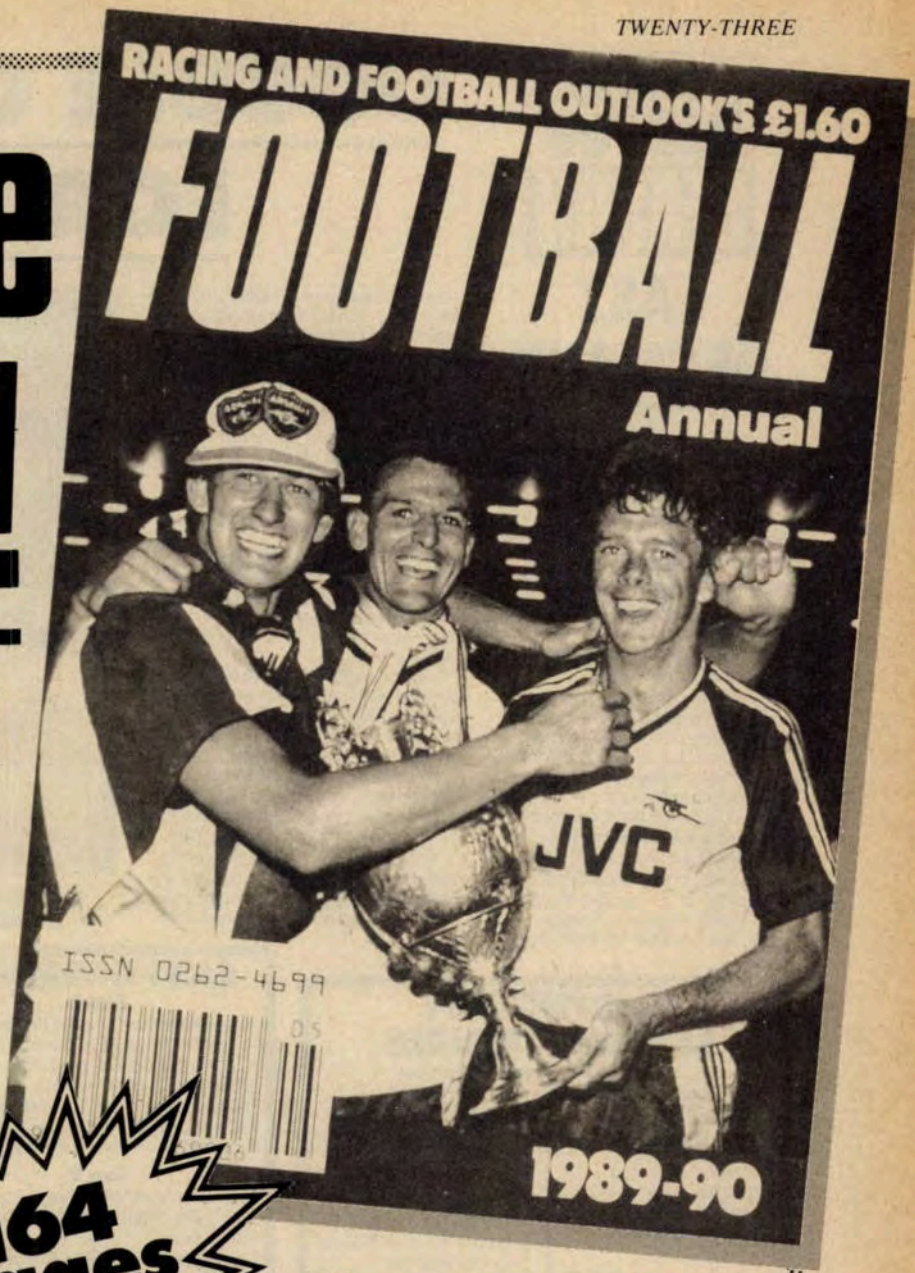

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THE NEW SEASON

DOUBLE CHALLENGE FOR GEYER

EAST GERMANY

by BOB VAUGHAN

LAST season's change of East German national trainer in mid-term did not provide the hoped for improvement and now Manfred Zapf, who replaced Bernd Stange, has returned to his post as FA deputy secretary and director of coaching.

The plan for 1989/90 is that the successful Dynamo Dresdes chief, Eduard Gever, 'does a Lobanovski' and runs both the champions and the national team. He will have his work cut out. Though several of his club side will doubtless form the backbone of the team to face the Soviet Union in Karl-Marx-Stadt and Iceland and Austria away in the World Cup there is the question of intergrating 'the others', not to mention repairing morale.

The new Footballer of the Year, Andreas Trautmann should continue in the middle of the defence to which he returned last season after a lengthy absence, probably in front of the Jena keeper Perry Braeutigam.

Results of the training camp in Sweden will only be apparent when Malta are visited for a friendly. In the meantime Geyer will be geeing up his Dynamos for the Oberliga and Champions Cup games with AEK Athens following a disastrous Super Cup defeat in Cottbus.

A record crowd of 22,000 in the extended and remodelled Stadion der Freundschaft saw Thomas Doll of BFC have just one of those days and stumbling Dresden defence could do little with him.

New manager Jaeschke can be pleased with the team he has taken over from Juergen Bogs. A goal up at half-time and four by 84 minutes to a late Sammer consolation meant the sort of success which eluded the former ten times champions.

Off the field the DFV has announced all sorts of new rules and guidelines.

The "actors" are now under contract and can decide whether to sign for any period between one and five seasons. When his contract is up a player may change clubs without being in any way bound to his previous employer.

Footballer of the Year — Andreas Trautmann

In the case of internationals the FA still has to be consulted so there did not seem to be very much new in the statement except that players no longer officially have amateur status, a fact notified to FIFA and which may have an effort on transfers.

No details were provided but it looks as if players will be rewarded for greater success, something rather lacking at international level in recent time, Dynamo Dresden excepted.

Playing in front of full houses will also be reflected in pay packets but the cautious Spitzner added this would not necessarily make GDR football automatically better! IT has been decided to stay with an Oberliga of 14 clubs; the two sections of the 'Liga' continue with 18 clubs but in future without reserve sides. There will be an annual Super Cup for the Sportecho Trophy. Sunday will be the normal League match day for the First Division Oberliga and Liga games, that is Division Two, will take place on Saturday. Division One clubs may employ a maximum of 25 players in their squad.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 10
Boavista-Uniao Madeira
Tirsense-Est.Amadora
Feirense-Belenses
Sp.Braga-V.Setubal
Maritimo-V.Guimaraes
Benfica-Beira-Mar
Sporting-Nacional
Portimonense-Penafiel
Chaves-F.C. Porto

Sept 24
Uniao Madeira-Chaves
Est.Amadora-Boavista
Belenenses-Tirsense
V.Setubal-Feirense
V. Guimaraes-Sp.Braga
Beira-Mar-Maritimo
Nacional-Benfica
Penafiel-Sporting
F.C. Porto-Portimonense

Oct 15
Uniao Madeira-Est.Amadora
Boavista-Belenenses
Tirsense-V. Setubal
Feirense-V. Guimaraes
Sp.Braga-Beira-Mar
Maritimo-Nacional
Benfica-Penafiel
Sporting-F.C. Porto
Chaves-Portimonense

Oct 22
Est. Amadora-Chaves
Belenenses-Uniao Madeira
V.Setubal-Boavista
V.Guimaraes-Tirsense
Beira-Mar-Feirense
Nacional-Sp.Braga
Penafiel-Maritimo
F.C. Porto-Benfica
Portimonense-Sporting

Oct 29
Est. Amadora-Belenenses
Uniao Madeira-V. Setubal
Boavista-V.Guimaraes
Tirsense-Beira-Mar
Feirense-Nacional
Sp.Braga-Penafield
Maritimo-F.C. Porto
Benfica-Portimonense
Chaves-Sporting

Nov 5
Belenenses-Chaves
V. Setubal-Est. Amadora
V. Guimaraes-Uniao Madeira
Beira-Mar-Boavista
Nacional-Tirsense
Penafiel-Feirense
F.C. Porto-Sp.Braga
Portimonense-Maritimo
Sporting-Benfica

Nov 19
Belenenses-V.Setubal
Est.Amadora-V.Guimaraes
Uniao Madeira-Beira-Mar
Boavista-Nacional
Tirsense-Penafiel
Feirense-F.C. Porto
SP. Braga-Portimonense
Maritimo-Sporting
Chaves-Benfica

Nov 26
V. Setubal-Chaves
V.Guimaraes-Belenenses
Beira-Mar-Est.Amadora
Nacional-Uniao Madeira
Penafiel-Boavista
F.C. Porto-Tirsense
Portimonense-Feirense
Sporting-SP. Braga
Benfica-Maritimo

Dec 3:
V. Setubal-V.Guimaraes
Belenenses-Beira-Mar
Est.Amadora-Nacional
Uniao Madeira-Penafiel
Boavista-F.C. Porto
Tirsense-Portimomense
Feirense-Sporting
Sp.Braga-Benfica
Chaves-Maritimo

EAST GERMAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sep 1
FC Karl-Marx-Stadt-Dynamo Dresden
FC Carl Zeiss Jena-HFC Chemie
FC Hansa Rostock-Energie Cottbus
BFC Dynamo-1.FC Magdeburg
Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt-Stahl Brandenburg
1.FC Lok Leipzig-FC Rot-Weis Erfurt
Fortschritt Bischofswerda-Wismut Aue

Sep 9
Dynamo Dresden-Wismut Aue
FC Rot-Weis Erfurt-Fortschritt Bischofswerda
Stahl Brandenburg-1.FC Lok Leipzig
1.FC Magdeburg-Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt
Energie Cottbus-BFC Dynamo
HFC Chemie-FC Hansa Rostock
FC Karl-Marx-Stadt-FC Carl Zeiss Jena

Sep 16
FC Carl Zeiss Jena-Dynamo Dresden
FC Hansa Rostock-FC Karl-Marx-Stadt
BFC Dynamo-HFC Chemie
Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt-Energie Cottbus
1.FC Lok Leipzig-1.FC Magdeburg
Fortschritt Bischofswerda-Stahl Brandenburg
Wismut Aue-FC Rot-Weis Erfurt

Sept 23
Dynamo Dresden-FC Rot-Weis-Erfurt
Stahl Brandenburg-Wismut Aue
1.FC Magdeburg-Fortschritt Bischofswerda
Energie Cottbus-1.FC Lok Leipzig
HFC Chemie-Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt
FC Karl-Marx-Stadt-BFC Dynamo
FC Carl Zeiss Jena-FC Hansa Rostock

Oct 14
FC Hansa Rostock-Dynamo Dresden
BFC Dynamo-FC Carl Zeiss Jena
Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt-FC Karl-Marx-Stadt
1.FC Lok Leipzig-HFC Chemie
Fortschritt Bischofswerda-Energie Cottbus
Wismut Aue-1.FC Magdeburg
FC Rot-Weis Erfurt-Stahl Brandenburg

Oct 21
Dynamo Dresden-Stahl Brandenburg
1.FC Magdeburg-FC Rot-Weis-Erfurt
Energie Cottbus-Wismut Aue
HFC Chemie-Fortschritt Bischofswerda
FC Karl-Marx-Stadt-1.FC Lok Leipzig
FC Carl Zeiss Jena-Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt
FC Hansa Rostock-BFC Dynamo

Oct 28
BFC Dynamo-Dynamo Dresden
Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt-FC Hansa Rostock
1.FC Lok Leipzig-FC Carl Zeiss Jena
Fortschritt Bischofswerda-FC Karl-Marx-Stadt
Wismut Aue-HFC Chemie
FC Rot-Weis Erfurt-Energie Cottbus
Stahl Brandenburg-1.FC Magdeburg

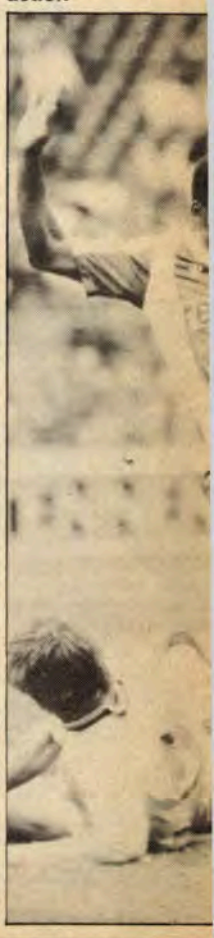
Nov 8
Dynamo Dresden-1.FC Magdeburg
Energie Cottbus-Stahl Brandenburg
HFC Chemie-FC Rot-Weis Erfurt
FC Karl-Marx-Stadt-Wismut Aue
FC Carl Zeiss Jena-Fortschritt Bischofswerda
FC Hansa Rostock-1.FC Lok Leipzig
BFC Dynamo-Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt

Nov 18
Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt-Dynamo Dresden
1.FC Lok Leipzig-BFC Dynamo (Zentralstadion)
Fortschritt Bischofswerda-FC Hansa Rostock
Wismut Aue-FC Carl Zeiss Jena
FC Rot-Weis Erfurt-FC Karl-Marx-Stadt
Stahl Brandenburg-HFC Chemie
1.FC Magdeburg-Energie Cottbus

Nov 25
Dynamo Dresden-Energie Cottbus
HFC Chemie-1.FC Magdeburg
FC Karl-Marx-Stadt-Stahl Brandenburg
FC Carl Zeiss Jena-FC Rot-Weis- Erfurt
FC Hansa Rostock-Wismut Aue
BFC Dynamo-FortschrittBischofswerda
Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt-1.FC Lok Leipzig

Dec 2
1.FC Lok Leipzig-Dynamo Dresden (Zentralstadion)
Fortschritt Bischofswerda-Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt
Wismut Aue-BFC Dynamo
FC Rot-Weis Erfurt-FC Hansa Rostock
Stahl Brandenburg-FC Carl Zeiss Jena
1.FC Magdeburg-FC Karl-Marx-Stadt
Energie Cottbus-HFC Chemie

Below: Porto's Pingo in action



POLAND

by BOB VAUGHAN

Poles make an early start

WORLD Cup commitments meant an early start to the new Polish season at the beginning of August. Promoted Sosnowiec managed a point against Jagiellonia. One goal each did not match the number of cards, six, fortunately all yellow.

The match of the day, however, was at Chorzow where champions Ruch entertained Silesian neighbours, Gornik. The home side confirmed the form of last season with a 2-0 victory, both goals coming from last terms leading scorer, Krzysztof Warzycha.

The visitors are clearly going to miss Ryszard Komornicki, now installed at FC Aarau, as Slask Wroclaw will miss Ryszard Tarasiewicz who has moved to Xamax Neuchatel. More exotic is the transfer of two Widzew Lodz stars.

Leszek Iwsanicki and Tadeusz Swiatek will be wearing the colours of South Korea's FC Kong in Seoul.

It makes the new national team Manager's task no easier. Andrzej Strejlau, 49 who spent his playing career in Warsaw, including a period with with Gwardia, and last term was in charge of Legia now has to salvage something if only honour in a World Cup group the Poles can no longer win.

Good home performances could help decide the outcome. Thereafter it will have to be team building with the hope of better and qualfication for the next European Championship in Sweden.

Ryszard Tarasiewicz

Above: Hoping for League success — Red Star Belgrade

POLISH LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 3
Katowice — Wisla;
Jagiellonia — Lech;
Slask — Stal;
LKS Lodz — Gornik;
Zawisza — Widzew
Zaglebie Sosnowiec — Motor;
Olimpia — Ruch;
Zaglebie Lubin — Lega.

Sept 16
Widzew — LKS Lodz;
Gornik — Slas;
Stal — Jagiellonia;
Lech — Wisla;
Legia — Olimpia;
Ruch — Zaglebie Sosnowiec;
Motor — Zawisza;
Zaglebie Lubin — Katowice.

Sept 24
Katowice — Lech;
Wisla — Stal;
Jagiellonia — Gornik;
Slask — Widzew;
LKS Lodz — Motor;
Zawisza — Ruch;
Zaglebie Sosnowiec — Legia;
Olimpia — Zaglegie Lubin.

Oct 1
Ruch — LKS Lodz;
Motor — Slask;
Widzew — Jagiellonia;
Gornik — Wisla;
Stal — Lech;
Zaglebie Lubin — Zaglebie Sosnowiec;
Legia — Zawisza;
Olimpia — Katowice.

Oct 15:
Katowice — Stal;
Lech — Gornik;
Wisla — Widzew;
Jagiellonia — Motor;
Slask — Ruch;
LKS Lodz — Legia;
Zawisza — Zaglebie Lubin;
Zaglebie Sosnowiece — Olimpia.

Oct 29
Zaglebie Lubin — LKS Lodz;
Legia — Slask;
Ruch — Jagiellonia;
Motor — Wisla;
Widzew — Lech;
Gornik — Stal;
Olimpia — Zawisza;
Zaglebie Sosnowiec — Katowice.

Nov 5
Katowice — Gornik;
Stal — Widzew;
Lech — Motor;
Wisia — Ruch;
Jagiellonia — Legia;
Slask — Zaglebie Lubin;
LKS Lodz — Olimpia;
Zawisza — Zaglebie Sosnowiec.

Nov 19
Zaglebie Sosnowiec — LKS Lodz;
Olimpia — Slask;
Zaglebie Lubin — Jagiellonia;
Legia — Wisla;
Ruch — Lech;
Motor — Stal;
Widzew — Gornick;
Zawisza — Katowice.

Nov 26
Katowice — Widzew;
Gornik — Motor;
Stal — Ruch;
Lech — Legia;
Wisla — Zaglebie Lubin;
Jagiellonia — Olimpia;
Slask — Zaglebie Sosnowiec;
LKS Lodz — Zawisza.

YUGOSLAVIA LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sep 10
Velez-Vojvodina
Vardar-Sloboda
Zeljeznicar-Spartak
Osijek-Dinamo
Hajduk-Red Star
Partizan-Olimpia
Radnicki-Rad
Borca-Sarajevo
Rijeka-Buducnost

Sept 17
Buducnost-Velez
Sarajevo-Rijeka
Rad-Borac
Olimpia-Radnicki
Red Star-Partizan
Dinamo-Hajduk
Spartak-Osijek
Sloboda-Zeljeznicar
Vojvodina-Vardar

Sept 24
Velez-Vardar
Zelijeznicar-Vojvodina
Osijek-Sloboda
Hajduk-Spartak
Partizan-Dinamo
Radnick-Red Star
Borac-Olimpia
Rijeka-Rad
Buducnost-Sarajevo

Oct 1
Sarajevo-Velez
Rad-Buducnost
Olimpia-Rijeka
Red Star-Borac
Dinamo-Radnicki
Spartak-Partizan
Sloboda-Hajduk
Vojvodina-Osiek
Vardar-Zeljeznicar

Oct 15
Velez-Zeljeznicar
Osijek-Vardzar
Hajduk-Vojvodina
Partizan-Sloboda
Radnicki-Spartak
Borac-Dinamo
Rijeka-Red Star
Buducnost-Olimpia
Sarajevo-Rad

Oct 22
Rad-Velez
Olimpia-Sarajevo
Red Star-Buducnost
Dinamo-Rijeka
Spartak-Borac
Sloboda-Radnicki
Vojvodina-Partizan
Vardar-Hajduk
Zeljeznicar-Osijek

Nov 5
Velez-Osijek
Hajduk-Zeljeznicar
Partizan-Vardar
Radnicki-Vojvodina
Borac-Sloboda
Rijeka-Spartak
Buducnost-Dinamo
Sarajevo-Red Star
Rad-Olimpia

Nov 12
Olimpia-Velez
Red Star-Rad
Dinamo-Sarajevo
Spartak-Buducnost
Sloboda-Rijeka
Vojodina-Borac
Vardar-Radnicki
Zeljeznicar-Partizan
Osijek-Haiduk

Nov 19
Velez-Hajduk
Partizan-Osijek
Radnick-Zeljeznicar
Borac-Vardar
Rijeka-Vojvodina
Buducnost-Sloboda
Sarajevo-Spartak
Rad-Dinamo
Olimpia-Red Star

Nov 26
Red Star-Velez
Dinamo-Olmpia
Spartak-Rad
Sloboda-Sarajevo
Vojvodina-Buducnost
Vardar-Rijeka
Zeljeznicar-Borac
Osijek-Radnicki
Hajduk-Partizan

Nov 29
Velez-Partizan
Radnicki-Hajduk
Borac-Osijek
Rijeka-Zeljeznicar
Buducnost-Vardar
Sarajevo-Vojvodina
Rad-Sloboda
Olimpia-Spartak
Red Star-Dinamo

Dec 3
Dinamo-Velez
Spartak-Red Star
Sloboda-Olimpia
Vojvodina-Rad
Vardar-Sarajevo
Zeljeznicar-Buducnost
Osijek-Rijeka
Hajduk-Borac
Partizan-Radnicki

THE NEW SEASON

BULGARIA

Sredets chase another four trophies!

by
BOB VAUGHAN

BULGARIAN champions FKA Sredets began the new campaign in late July with a match against an All Star XI selected by the magazine Sport. Ivan Hasek

This traditional encounter, now in its seventh year, brought a substantial victory for the top club in 1988/89 who took league cup, Societ Army cup and the Supercup.

Nevertheless the squad will be strengthened by the signing of the Trakia international libero Dimitir Mladenov for the new League season.

Like Sredets, Vitosha have been preparing abroad, claiming this to be essential in view of the European Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying match with Dinamo Tirana.

A training camp in West Germany saw the national squad play four matches with amateur teams — 32 goals were scored but this is little consolation for the likely absence from Italy.

Several veterans were in the party in Germany but surely reappointed manager Ivan Vutsov will soon have to look more to the future and younger performers.

Eight of 16 club trainers have gone in Division One and Slavia hold the record for new signings — ten — for 1989/90.

Nasko Sirakov

Ivan Hasek

BULGARIAN LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 3:
Dunav — Hebar
Sliven — Slavia
Beroe — Vratza
Vitosha — Pirin
Trakia — Lokomotiv
Chernomorets — Cherno More
Lokomotiv S. — Lokomotiv G.O.
Etar — CFKA

Sept 10:
Cherno More — Dunav
Pirin — Chernomorets
Lokomotiv G.O. — Vitosha
Vratza — Etar
Hebar — Sliven
Lokomotiv P. — Lokomotiv S.
Slavia — Beroe
CFKA — Trakia

Sept 23:
Dunav — Sliven
Trakia — Vratza
Vitosha — Lokomotiv P.
Chernomorets — Lokomotiv G.O.
Beroe — Hebar
Cherno More — Pirin
Etar — Slavia
Lokomotiv S. — CFKA

Sept 30:
Pirin — Dunav
Lokomotiv G.P. — Cherno More
Sliven — Beroe
Vratza — Lokomotiv S.
Slavia — Trakia
Hebar — Etar
Lokomotiv P. — Chernomorets
CFKA — Vitosha

Oct 14:
Beroe
Pirin — Lokomotiv G.O.
Trakia — Hebar
Etar — Sliven
Vitosha — Vratza
Cherno More — Lokomotiv P.
Lokomotiv S. — Slavia
Chernomorets — CFKA

Oct 21:
Lokomotiv G.O. — Dunav
Lokomotiv P. — Pirin
Sliven — Trakia
Vratza — Chernomorets
Hebar — Lokomotiv S.
Beroe — Etar
Slavia — Vitosha
CFKA — Cherno More

Oct 25:
Dunav — Etar
Trakia — Beroe
Chernomorets — Slavia
Vitosha — Hebar
Lokomotiv S. — Sliven
Cherno More — Vratza
Lokomotiv G.O. — Lokomotiv P.
Pirin — CFKA

Oct 29:
Lokomotiv P. — Dunav
Hebar — Chernomorets
Vratza — Pirin
Sliven — Vitosha
Beroe — Lokomotiv S.
Slavia — Cherno More
Etar — Trakia
CFKA — Lokomotiv G.O.

Nov 5:
Dunav — Trakia
Lokomotiv S. — Etar
Cherno More — Hebar
Pirin — Slavia
Lokomotiv G.O. — Vratza
Chernomorets — Sliven
Vitosha — Beroe
Lokomotiv P. — CFKA

Nov 19:
Vratza — Lokomotiv P.
Slavia — Lokomotiv G.O.
Hebar — Pirin
Sliven — Cherno More
Beroe — Chernomorets
Etar — Vitosha
Trakia — Lokomotiv S.
CFKA — Dunav

Nov 26:
Dunav — Lokomotiv S.
Chernomorets — Etar
Pirin — Sliven
Cherno More — Beroe
Lokomotiv G.O. — Hebar
Vitosha — Trakia
Lokomotiv P. — Slavia
CFKA — Vratza

Dec 3:
Vratza — Dunav
Hebar — Lokomotiv P.
Etar — Cherno More
Sliven — Lokomotiv G.O.
Trakia — Chernomorets
Beroe — Pirin
Lokomotiv S. — Vitosha
Slavia — CFKA

CZECHOSLOVAK LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sept 2:
Slavia — Dukla P.
Brno — Inter
O. Bystrica — Trnava
Vitkovice — Bohemians
Cheb — Nitra
D. Streda — Ostrava
Slovan — Dukla B.B.
Sparta — Olomouc

Sept 17:
Olomouc — Sparta
Dukla B.B. — Sparta
Ostrava — Slovan
Nitra — D. Streda
Bohemians — Cheb
Trnava — Vitkovice
Inter — P. Bystrica
Dukla P. — Brno.

Sept 23:
Slavia — Brno
P. Bystrica — Dukla P.
Vitkovice — Inter
Cheb — Trnava
D. Streda — Bohemians
Slovan — Nitra
Sparta — Ostrava
Olomouc — Dukla B.B.

Oct 11:
Dukla B.B. — Slavia
Ostrava — Olomouc
Nitra — Sparta
Bohemians — Slovan
Trnava — D. Streda
Inter — Cheb
Dukla P. — Vitkovice
Brno — P. Bystrica

Oct 29:
Slavia — P. Bystrica
Vitkovice — Brno
Cheb — Dukla
D. Streda — Inter
Slovan — Trnava
Sparta — Bohemians
Olomouc — Nitra
Dukla B.B. — Ostrava

Nov 5:
Ostrava — Slavia
Nitra — Dukla B.B.
Bohemians — Olomouc
Trnava — Sparta
Inter — Slovan
Dukla P. — D. Streda
Brno — Cheb
P. Bystrica — Vitkovice

Nov 19:
Slavia — Vitkovice
Cheb — P. Bystrica
D. Streda — Brno
Slovan — Dukla P.
Sparta — Inter
Olomouc — Trnava
Dukla B.B. — Bohemians
Ostrava — Nitra

Nov 22:
Nitra — Slavia
Bohemians — Ostrava
Trnava — Dukla B.B.
Inter — Olomouc
Dukla P. — Sparta
Brno — Slovan
P. Bystrica — D. Streda
Vitkovice — Cheb

Nov 26:
Slavia — Cheb
D. Streda — Vitkovice
Slovan — P. Bystrica
Sparta — Brno
Olomouc — Dukla P.
Dukla B.B. — Inter
Ostrava — Trnava
Nitra — Bohemians

Dec 3:
Bohemians — Slavia
Trnava — Nitra
Inter — Ostrava
Dukla P. — Dukla B.B.
Brno — Olomouc
P. Bystrica — Sparta
Vitkovice — Slovan
Cheb — D. Streda

Dec 10:
D. Streda — Slavia
Slovan — Cheb
Sparta — Vitkovice
Olomouc — P. Bystrica
Dukla B.B. — Brno
Ostrava — Dukla P.
Nitra — Inter
Bohemians — Trnava

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Kent Nielsen — Aston Villa's new signing from Brondby

DENMARK . . . from JIM HOLDEN

DANES TURN TRANSFER MARKET AROUND

THE sudden revival of the Danish international side this summer, with remarkable wins against Sweden and Brazil has brought the scouts flooding back to raid for cut-price talent.

But although a number of the Denmark side have left for clubs abroad, transfer fees have reflected the new strength of the Danish league.

No longer do clubs like champions Brondby have to sell quickly to make ends meet or at prices which make it impossible to replace their departing stars.

Two moves, in particular, reflect this. Brian Laudrup, younger brother of Michael, was watched by most of Europe's top clubs. Eventually he left for Bundesliga side Bayer Uerdingen, but only for a record Danish fee of £800,000.

That enabled Brondby to move swiftly and replace him with Olympic international striker Frank Pingel, who returned home after an unsuccessful spell with Newcastle in England.

Another of the Brondby internationals Kent Nielsen was the next to go, sold to Aston Villa for £500,000. It was a good price for the lanky defender acquired cheaply from the rival Danish club B1903 two years ago.

Denmark's new captain Lars Olsen another player with Brondby, said: "The standards in the Danish league have improved considerably in the last two or three years.

"It means players like myself no longer have to go abroad to play at a level necessary for the national side. That doesn't mean players won't leave, but I don't think there will be so many.

"Personally, I have heard lots of rumous linking me with clubs in Germany and England. But there is nothing concrete and the price will be very high.

"If it happens, that's fine. But it won't matter if I spend all my career in Denmark."

Olsen is leading Brondby towards a third consecutive league title, the club three points clear at the midsummer break. But they were checked by a defeat at resurgent Vejle, who could pose the biggest threat in the second half of the season, with Allan Simonsen looking for a farewell fling.

Meanwhile, the international side is focused on next month's crunch World Cup qualifying clash at home to Rumania.

The superb victories in the centenary tournament will count for nothing if the Danes do not beat beat Rumania and give themselves a chance of reaching next year's World Cup finals.

Olsen said: "That is the vital match for us. Of course, we are full of confidence, after our recent wins, especially the one against Sweden, who are our traditional rivals.

"And the big thing is that the fans believe in us again, which is very important. They make an unbelievable noise in Copenhagen and we have to win for them."

Greeks will

GREECE from LOUIS ECONOMOPOULOS

WITH most of the Greek first division teams still abroad training, far away from the intense heat here, the Federation announced that the season will kick off on September 17 and end on June 3.

Eighteen teams will slug it out for the first division title, two more than last season, while for the first time the third division has been broken up into two sections with 20 teams each. There will also be 18 teams in the second division.

However, to keep the four top teams fit for European competition, the federation decided to begin Greek Cup play much earlier than in the past, beginning on August 20 with 76 teams involved (there were 52 clubs in action last season).

The Greek Cup is organised for the first round with 16 groups (12 groups of five teams each and four groups of four teams each) with the first two teams of each group advancing. Each group has one first division club. The Greek Cup final will be played on either May 16 or 30, 1990.

The Greek sports newspapers are once again pointing to AEK of Athens repeating as first division champions.

"Our obligations are greater this season," said AEK captain Pavlos

SAVIOUR SZABADI JOINS THE EXODUS

HUNGARY . . . from BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

LASZLO Szabadi, having helped Vasas retain their record of never having been relegated from the Hungarian first division since World War II was among those to obtain transfers abroad during the summer, further affecting the lack of depth in the domestic game.

Szabadi, who was chosen for two international matches in 1988, after transferring from Ferencvaros, has joined Beerschot, the Belgian First Division club which also narrowly avoided relegation.

The 28-year-old, bandy-legged, forward scored the decisive, only goal, an 88th-minute penalty, in the second leg of the promotion- relegation play-off match with Szeged by which Vasas retained Division One status, winning 1-0 after drawing the first leg 0-0.

Szeged appealed over the status of Vasili Teoduro, the Greek player at Vasas, protesting that he was ineligible for the play- off because of the number of cautions he had received in the championship proper, but the MLSZ (Magyar Labdarugok Szovetsege) turned this down.

Haladas, of Szombathely, the other Division One club fighting to retain its position, survived against Oroszlan, also by scoring a late, 88th-minute, goal in the second leg to leave the score 4-1, Oroszlan having won the first leg 2-0 at home.

Debrecen MVSC, in the north-east, and Csepel, the island just south of Budapest on the Danube, had earlier won the respective East and West sections of the Second Division to guarantee themselves a return to the top flight.

The new league season began in mid-August with champions Honved, without Kalman Kovacs, the tricky little winger who was implicated in the latest match-fixing bribery scandal before being allowed to resume playing at the end of last season. He has joined Auxerre, who finished fifth in last season's French First Division, and scored for them in the opening round. Kovacs, still 23, has managed only four goals in his 21 international appearances but was a hard-working member of the Honved attack.

Honved's European Cup hopes were ended by Celtic last season.

Young stars

The champions had to press several young players into service in the second half of the championship -- Tibor Hegyeshalmi, Andras Kisistok and Ferenc Toth are all only 20 -- and there are hopes that they can do better in the European Champions' Cup than last season.

Then they were eliminated in the first round by Celtic, conceding three goals in the last quarter-hour of the second leg after failing to assert their superiority in the first leg by failing to score more than one goal. Now they play Vojvodina Novi Sad, from that part of Yugoslavia which previously belonged to Hungary.

The return of Ferencvaros to European competition revives memories of when this club provided a dynamic advertisement of what was good in Hungarian soccer. In the late 1960's and early 1970's 'Fradi' had several players in the national team, too, but this is no longer the case and there cannot be much hope of the green-and-whites making an extended run.

They have lost their tall, lean, goalkeeper, Gabor Zsiboras, who after making more than 250 appearances for the club has made the short journey around Konyves Kalman Korut to join eternal rivals, MTK-VM. Now 31, easy-going 'Zsibi' made only four appearances for the national team.

Other transfers included that of Guyla Plotar, the 28-year-old Tatabanya forward, to AEK Athens, the Greek champions, and Jozsef Szekeres, previously of Bekescsaba, replacing him at Tatabanya.

Dr Mihaly Laczko, the new president of the MLSZ, took a step backwards after his frank statements and criticisms upon being elected to the post and adopted a more moderate line. He now says that Bertalan Bicskei, the manager of the national team, will remain in charge until the completion of the World Cup qualifying group matches, of which Hungary have three to play and for which miracles appear to be required in order for qualification to nearby Italy to be obtained.

Dr Laczko recognises, also, that the changes in personnel that he desires around the decision-making table cannot be achieved overnight. The democratic process takes time . . .

The reality amid the politically-charged atmosphere of present- day Hungary is that football has much to do in order to regain the respect of the public. Qualification for this World Cup would have attracted a sizeable number of supporters to the playing venues in Italy and perhaps have inspired the Hungarians to reawaken the national game.

Yet the playing standing of the squad is mediocre at international level and has slipped since the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina. Even there, however, all three first-round group matches were lost for the first time (admittedly in a difficult group) and attendances at club matches have never been what they were before that reverse.

make a late start

Papaioannou. "Not only do we have to defend our league crown, but also do

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Olympiakos looked good in pre-season matches. Hungarian star Lajos Detari says he expects his goals to turn Olympiakos into league champions and to advance two or three rounds in European play.

Veteran Nikos Anastopoulos, 31, has regained forward position with his old club.

Panathinaikos coach under Bengtsson of Sweden says "nothing is certain with the starters yet. Every position is open, but we will certainly have a much better team than last year."

Panathinaikos have picked up Bulgarian star Christo Kolen and Jason Polack from Sydney Olympic.

PAOK of Salonica have signed Egyptian star Mahnti Salah Dolba of Zamalek in an effort to help in the midfield. "My signing with PAOK, besides for personal reasons, was also to help Egyptian soccer become known in Europe. I believe I can help the team's efforts in the cup and the league play," says Dolba who was discovered during PAOK's training stint in Yugoslavia.

In a very strong year for new signings in the Greek First Division, only PAOK rolled out the cash paying 90 million drachmas to Larisa for George Batista.

Meanwhile, veteran Thomas Mavros, 35, winding down his career with Panionios, is not happy with the money he is owed by the club and is training on his own.

He says "There is a contract with signatures. Someday at Panionios they must understand their obligations. Last year I had patience. I cannot do the same this year."

Lajos Detari

AFRICAN NOTEBOOK from MARK GLEESON

ALGERIA ARE ON THE WAY — AGAIN

ALGERIA are the only real certainties, so far, for a place in the final four of the African zone qualifiers for next year's World Cup finals.

The north Africans, who represented the continent in the last two finals in Spain and Mexico, are almost certain to emerge victors in Group A, but just who will join them in the final stage of the play-offs to determe Africa's two places in Italy is still in doubt.

Groups B through D remain evenly contested with a series of topsy turvey results keeping the chances of several unfancied nations alive.

Liberia, whose international pedigree extends only to the export of their star winger George Weah to the French club AS Monaco, are surprise leaders in group B after two well earned home wins.

African champions Cameroun have recovered from a precarious position to emerge favourites to top Group C, but only thanks to group minnows Gabon who beat Nigeria 2-1 in Libreville.

In Group D, Zambia are the leaders, but Morocco remain the only nation to have taken a point away from home.

Algeria's 2-1 away win in Zimbabwe meant they needed just a point from their remaining match at home to IvoryCoast to go through to the two-legged decider against the winner of Group B.

For Algeria the win Harare was a satisfying result, but they could hardly be pleased with the way it was achieved. Zimbabwe dominated proceedings from the start to finish, but lacked pace and ideas against the stout visiting defence.

Algeria'S attacks were limited to the occasional fast break, catching Zimbabwe in the 38th minute when Lakhdar Relloumi found Menad Djamel free for the opening goal.

Zimbabwe could have equalised in the second half when fullback Boudjida Lamri was penalised for handball, but Stix Mtizwa's spot kick was no trouble for goalkeeper Antar Osmani. In the final minute, Rabah Madjer's swerving freekick found the diving head of Hadj Adlene for Algeria's second.

In injury time, Zimbabwe were awarded a second penalty, again for a handball infringment, and Stanley Ndunduma converted for the consolation goal.

Algeria'S cause was made easier by their away draw in Abdjan against Cote d'Ivoire two weeks earlier, holding out for a 0-0 draw in front of 50,000 hostile fans.

Algeria's Rabah Madjer

Success

Group B's situation is not as clear, but Liberia have the chance to pull off one of the biggest shocks in African football history if they edge Egypt and Malawi from the group winner's slot.

Liberia recorded two unexpected home wins in two weeks over the group leaders Egypt and East and Central African champions Malawi, prompting President Samuel Doe to declare a national holiday in celebration.

If Liberia can continue that winning form away in their last two ties at Malawi and bottom-placed Kenya, then then will win through to the final phase of qualifying. Weah's return from Europe was an obvious boost to their fortunes, scoring the only goal in the game against Malawi in Monrovia and then flying in just hours after the French Cup final to help the Liberians upset Egypt through James Salinsa Debah's 44th minute goal.

Egypt had scored a vital away point at Kenya in a goalless draw in Nairobi where Peter Dawo and George Onyan so struggled to find the visitors net despite an embarrassment of chances.

Kenya'S wores continue in Lilongwe where Peterkins Kayira kept up his phenomenal scoring record for Malawi, netting the only goal to put Malawi tie with Egypt on four points from four matches, one less than the Liberians.

Nigeria's 2-0 win over Cameroon in Ibadan promised to spell the end of the African champions challenge, but within 14 days the whole picture in Group C had changed again. Nigeria's win, courtesy of goals by the Belgain-based duo of Stephen Keshi and Samson Siasia, was sweet revenge for their defeat by Cameroon in the final of the African Nations Cup last year, but more importantly put the skids under the cnetral Africans, who had represented Africa at the 1982 finals in Spain.

But two weeks later Nigera were upended by Gabon, who had lost their three previous ties, while Cameroon ended the unbeaten record of Angola with a 2-1 away win at the Citadela stadium in Luanda.

This put Cameroon back top of the group with a one point advantage over the Nigerians and a home tie against them still to come.

Francois Oman Biyick, who has been injury plagued over the past 18 months, netted an equaliser for Cameroon after Angola's Paulao had opened the scoring after just four minutes.

On the hour, Bonaventure Djonkep scored the winner to pull Cameroon out of the fire and back on the winning trail.

Zambia lead Group D but they had to struggle to score maximum points from two home matches against Tunisia and Morocco. Africa's Olympic heroes first beat Tunisia 1-0 through a late long-range effort by Belgain-based DerbyMakina, in a match in which visiting goalkeeper Ahmed Bourchada was outstanding.

Then it was a 2-1 home win over Morocco in a match clouded by the alleged assault of the Malawian referee Bester Kalombo by incensed Moroccans at the end of the game. African Footballer of the Year Kalusha Bwalya scored two minutes into injury time for the winner, which led to heated protests by the north Africans.

Anderlecht'S Charles Musonda had put Zambia ahead three minutes before the break, but Moroccan fullback Abdellah Timoumi equalised with a freekick after 76 minutes.

Earlier, Morocco had earned a goalless draw in Zaire, who were beaten 1-0 by the Tunisians in Tunis 14 days later. Nabil Maloul scored from the penalty to give Tunisia their win, which puts them second in the group behing Zambia.

Mali followed up on their shock defeat of Morocco in the African Nations Cup qualifiers to win the Amilcar Cabral Cup in Ramako at the begining of June. Mali's emphatic 3-0 win over Guinea in the final in Bamako confirmed their rehabilitation of years of poor results.

Casualty

It was the third consecutive year that the two countries had met in the final the annual Zone II tournament, but Mali's first win in five final appearances. The competition marked by the success of the Verde Islands off the West coast, who have only be international football fr They scored their fir group matches, be Roy's Senegal 2 favourites out going on to win over S Grou Bissa

Nigeria's Stephen Keshi

Cape Verde 2 Guinea Bissau 3; Cape Verde 2 Senegal I; Mali 2 Guinea Bissau I.

Group B: Mauritania 1 Sierre Leone 2; Guinea 1 Sierra Leone 0; Guinea 3 Mauritania 1. Gambia withdrew.

Semi-final: Mali 1 Sierre Leone 0; Guinea I Cape Verde 0.

Third place play-off: Cape Vede I Sierre Leone 0.

Final: Mali 3 Guinea 0.

Zimbabwe Saints pulled off the comeback of stunning proportions in qualifying for the quarterfinals of the African Champions Cup.

The Bulaway-based team lost the first leg of their second round at home to the Ugandan champions Express FC, but the real drama came in the return in Kampala.

Although the aggregate score was still pegged at 1-0, Saints hopes of a fightback were given a severe dent when defender Mischeck Sibanda was sent off in the 60th minute. But fighting on with 10 men, and just three minutes left George Ayibu was fouled in the Ugandan penalty area to give Saints a penalty and a golden opportunity to level the aggregate score.

Forward Ayibu took the kick himself and blasted hopelessly wide, only to redeem himself within 60 seconds by netting a header from a looping cross.

But the drama did not stop there. The Zimbabweans conceded a penalty a minute later, but goalkeeper John Sibanda, at fault two weeks earlier for the first leg goal, stretched to push the ball around the post.

Saints held out for a 1-0 win at the end of 90 minutes and then won the resultant penalty shootout 4-3 for a first ever appearance in the quarterfinals.

The Zimbabweans are joined by neighbours Nkana Red Devils of Xambia, who crushed the Mauritian representatives Fire Brigade 8- 3 on aggregate.

Last year's finalists Iwanyanwu Nationale of Nigeria became the latest big-name casualty in the tournament, losing on penalty shootout to Inter Club of the Congo.

Giantkillers Mightly Blackpool of Sierre Leone, who beat the holders Entente Setif of Algeria in the first round, continued their progress with a 2-1 aggregate win over Djoliba of Mali.

Al-Mourada of Sudan, conquerors of Egypt's Zamalek, are also in the quarterfinals after beating their Kenyan neightbours AFC Leopards.

Making up the field are Raja Casablanca of Morocco, who need the away goal rules to qualify, Algeria's Mouloudia d'Oran and Tonnerre Yaounde of Cameroon, the team to watch.

Upsets were the order of the day in the Cup-winners' Cup, where the Malagasy club Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra produced a shock win over the highly-rated Power Dynamos of Zambia.

Dynamos were seemingly on their way to a quarterfinal place with a 2-1 away win on the Indian Ocean island, but were given a humiliating 3-1 defeat at home in the return — their first ever defeat on the Zambian copperbelt in African cup competition.

Also out of the cup in upset defeats are the holders CA Bizerte of Tunisia, and ASI Abensourou of Cote d'Ivoire. Bizerte were beaten 2-1 on aggregate by Al-Merriekh of Sudan, while LPRC Oilers of Liberia beat the more fancied Ivorians 4-3 over the two legs.

Gor Mahia of Kenya, the 1987 winners, must now be the favourites in the weakened field, along with Bendel United of Nigeria, Union Algiers, Zaire's FC Kalamu and Patronage of Congo.

The trial of Villaplane (fourth from left in dock) and other Nazi collaborators in 1944.

The shame of Alex Villaplane

BRIAN GLANVILLE reports on the literary detective work which exposed the wartime role of a French World Cup captain.

IT has been known for a very long time that Alex Villaplane, right-half and captain of France in the 1930 World Cup, was shot towards the end of the last war, for collaborating with the Nazis.

My friend and co-author of a History of the World Cup (1958), the polymath international lawyer, Jerry Weinstein, exhumed the gruesome fact when doing his research on the book in Paris over 30 years ago; he was working there as deputy director general of the Nuclear Energy Agency, and became very friendly with Marcel Pinel, who had played in that French team alongside Villaplane, at centre-half.

But now, thanks to the enterprise and the inspired speculation of Mr I F Walker, of the Department of French in the University of Edinburgh, we have chapter and verse on the full horror of Villaplane's activities. Well might Villaplane, at his eventual trial, say how "disgusted I am to have worn the German uniform it shames me and my country," then burst into tears.

No doubt there was a histrionic element in the performance; till damning evidence of his brutalities were given, he was doing his best to conceal the enormity of what he had done.

Deplorable

But there does seem something particularly vile and squalid, no matter how irrational this may be, for an interantional footballer, we very captain of France, to betray his country as Villaplane did.

A rationalist could answer that this is no much silly sentiment. Why should a professional footballer, no great paragon of intellect or wisdom be any better than the thousands of Frenchmen who eagerly collaborated with the Nazis, under the deplorable Vichy regime; the soldiers, intellectuals, civil servants, gendarmes and, yes, the entertainers, who so cheerfully went to Germany to perform their acts. Many of you will no doubt have seen the nauseating interview, just after the war, with Maurice Chevalier, quite frequently shown on our television screens, when he tried to dismiss what he had done.

Albert Camus was emphatically not among them. That famous novelist and intellectual was a leader of the French Resistance, who after the Liberation became Editor of its newspaper, *Combat*. He was also, as we know, a very keen footballer himself, who once, famously, wrote that it was to sport that he owed all his truest perceptions about man and life at large. He played, you may remember, goalkeeper for the University of Oran, in Algeria, and described his experiences with elegance and charm.

The starting point for Walker's investigation is his discovery of an entry in Camus' Notebooks, in which he writes of:

> The Sunday of a footballer who can no longer play . . . Etienne Villaplane, now he can no longer play, is bored on Sundays. What Sundays were. What Sundays are: he ambles through the streets, kicks at pebbles, which he tries to send down the mouths of the drains (One-nil! he said. And added that life was lousy.) He joins in kids' games where there are balls. He spits out his fag-ends and catches them on his foot. (At the begining, of course. Later, he'll keep his fag ends.)

But by the time La Peste appeared, Mr Walker points out, "Villaplane" had become "Gonzales." Mr Walker pertinently assumes that Camus, having plucked the name of Villaplane out of the air, or out of memor, later in 1944 found himself faced by tne nasty reality of the trial of Alex Villaplane himself, excluding any possibility of using the name for a character; most of all, that of an ex-footballer.

"But if the pages of the Notebooks offer no help on this point," writes Walker, "the *Combat* offer a good deal."

He then explains that in December, 1944, when Camus was still editor and chief leader-writer of *Combat*, the first trial of major collaborators, other than writers, took place. Henri Lafont and Jacques Bonny were the chief defendants, but in all 42 were arrested, and eventually Villaplane's name emerged as one of the "twelve principal accused." He had been a lieutenant in the SS, commanding, of all things, "a specially recruited North African brigade," used in numerous expeditions against the Maquis, the French Resistance fighters.

Walker gives details of Villaplane's successful career as a footballer, playing for Sete, Nimes and Racing Club de Paris, capped no fewer than 23 times between 1926 and 1930, outstanding in a 4-0 victory over Ireland in 1928, and in Frence's opening match of the 1930 World Cup tournament in Montevideo, a 4-1 win over Mexico.

When the presiding judge came to interrogate Villaplane, who sat, says *Combat*, beside Bonny and Lafont themselves, it was said:

> Villaplane is a former footballer, Specialist in gold dealings. Several convictions. He took part in the fight against the Marquis, but has many witnesses for himself. He is said to have prevented numerous massacres. He worked for the 2nd. Bureau, and didn't leave for Algeria.

Alexandre Astruc, reporting the trial for *Combat*, wrote:

> The most ambiguous role seems to have been that of Villaplane. Villaplane has many witnesses for himself. He defends himself heatedly. In March 1944 I go to Perigueux, says Villaplane. And I command a section of this North African brigade. I go there because Lafont asked me to, and I can refuse nothing to Lafont.

Villaplane's heat was in direct contrast with the odd lethargy of the other two chief defendants. He clashed angrily with the judge when he was called a murderer, denying this, and insisting "he had used his position to protest his fellow countrymen. But the masquerade could not last long.

On December 8, Astruc wrote of "the massacres of Perigord" in which Villaplane was crucially involved. An Inspector Franqui, in evidence, said that Villaplane and his North Africans had killed at least 200 people, "counting only identifiable corpes, invariably robbing their victims."

A Mme. Hubinet asserted that Villaplane had arrested her Jewish fiance and wrung 200,000 francs from her by threatening to arrest her, too.

A farmer's wife, not named, testified that Villaplane got the same amount from her, threatening to shoot her husband and burn down their farm house. A restaurant owner from Perigueux, M. Michel, said he had cashed a cheque for 150,000 francs in Villaplane's favour, after being threatened that he would be shot and his family deported. M. Alessandri testified that duirng interrogation, Villaplane had struck him with a blackjack till it broke. Again, Villaplane had demanded money, threatening to shoot his children.

Next day, Villaplane and eight others were sentenced to death. As the condemned lined up to sign the necessry document, Villaplane "was heard noisily requesting his lawyer to bring him a notebook, pen and ink."

Did he get them? And if he did, what did he write? No one knows. He was shot by firing squad on December 27, 1944. And Villaplane,in La Peste, became Gonzales.

JOHNSTON: WRONG MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

WHY JOHNSTON? This, above all, seems the relevant question about Glasgow Rangers' decision to buy, at last, a Catholic player. Not the first, by the way; there were a couple at the end of last century, one a doctor who scored the winning goal for both clubs. Beyond doubt it was a bold and radical gesture by Rangers and their determined manager, Graeme Souness, but again, why Johnston, who could scarcely have been a more provocative and debatable choice?

We all, of course, know why; we all know that Johnston had formerly played for Celtic, that he had made the sign of the cross in an Old Firm game, that he had actually and recently allowed himself to be paraded at Celtic Park, having seemingly agreed to rejoin the club from Nantes. We know, too, that in his Glaswegian years, Johnston had been involved in a number of contentious and abrasive incidents. So . . . why Johnston?

Threats

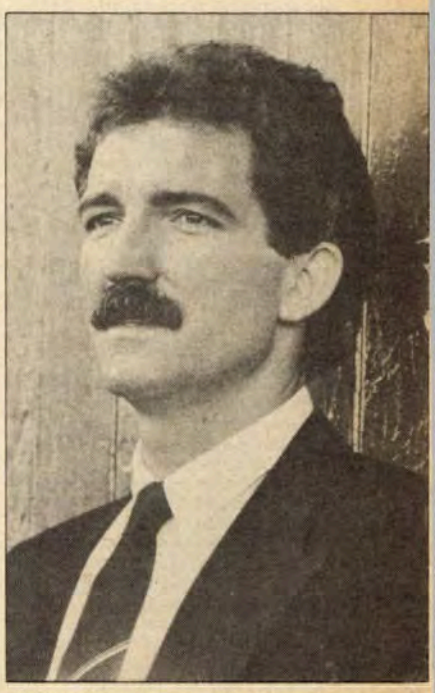
Perhaps Souness was proceeding on the sacred principle that if a moral issue is clear enough, then it should be applied to anyone and everyone, even those who may appear the least deserving. Perhaps, But to sign not only a Catholic, contentious enough in itself, however brave and right, but a Catholic who had played for Celtic, not only an ex Celtic player but one who'd just agreed to go back to them . . . The mind boggles.

Not, for a moment, that I have the smallest sympathy with the vile and brutal reactions which have ensued, the threats to burn down Johnston's house, to attack his girl friend and child, even to kill him. Such violent extremism is almost impossible to comprehend except in the terms of psychopathology; but then who, in any other terms, can being to comprehend the sectarian hatreds of Northern Ireland, from which this is a mere spin off?

The late Ernest Jones, that celebrated father of psychoanalysis, got as near as anybody ever has to an explanation in a remarkable essay on the symbolism of the island, which went some way towards explaining the murderous commitment of the I.R.A. But this is a football magazine, and I shall go no further.

For my own part, I feel intensely that football is a superb game in which there should ideally be room for anyone, the solitary criteria being ability and sportsmanship. Catholic or Protestant, black, white or brown, the many mansions of the game can benefit from all or any of them. I think it is quite dreadful that any club should bar a man for his colour, nationality or religion, though before totally condemning British football, please recall that it was not until 1947 that the ultra-bigoted American baseball game finally allowed a black player, Jackie Robinson, to enter its professional ranks. Not till 1947!

I wish I could unreservedly applaud Souness and Rangers for what they have done, but I can only wish it had been done in a different way, with a different player, rather than one who can virtually unite all of footballing Glasgow against him. I hope fervently for the best; but with no conviction at all that it will happen.



Signing Johnston was a brave move by Rangers manager Graeme Souness.

Rangers aim to cross the European divide

winners of the Champions Cup after their four-goal storming of Steaua in the Final.

They wandered through a minefield in an earlier round against Red Star Belgrade. They drew 1-1 in Milan and were a goal down in the second leg when fog decided to intervene and the game was abandoned.

Twenty-four hours later, Marco Van Basten put them ahead on agreegate before the Slavs equalised and took the game through extra-time and into a penalty shoot-out. The Slavs made one fatal error in the spot-kicks. Frank Rikjaard swept in his attempt and that was that. Milan released a mammoth sigh of relief, wiped the sweat from their brow and knew someone up there liked them. Their name was on that trophy as soon as the fog rolled in.

Scotland could do with that sort of smile from Dame Fortune. Lately there have been too many scowls and snarls from the good lady.

It's not all down to chance, of course. Bit it is high time Scotland made a dent in Europe again. English teams cast envious eyes across the Border and wish they, too, could enjoy those special European nights. No doubt they also believe they could do a far better job than that done at the moment by their Scottish brothers. Again it is difficult to argue.

Okay, it is time for a breakthrough. We keep talling ourselves how wonderful the Premier League is and how you have to be well-equipped just to survive in the cut-throat Top Ten. Fair enough. But are we kidding ourselves? If it's that good how come our clubs fold immediately they come up against fair opposition in Europe?

Possibly clubs are dwelling on the Premier League TOO much. Europe is only an interesting diversion. That is the thinking of a simpleton. Any ambitious club must look to Europe. That is where reputations are made. That is the real yardstick for ambitious clubs. When mediocrity becomes your ceiling you are smack in trouble.

Rangers have worked with a frantic ambition to assemble a squad capable of taking on and beating the best in Europe. Graeme Souness, as you would expect, will settle for nothing less. And why should he? He has three European Cup winners' medals in his personal trophy cabinet, all won with Liverpool, but, as he stresses frequently, Rangers are the biggest club in Britain with far more resources than are available at Anfield.

Hearts made things difficult for Bayern Munich last season. I was at Tynecastle in the evening to watch a weary 90 minutes during the first leg. The pitch looked as though the entire population of China had played on it in a downpour even before the kick-off. The West Germans, with captain Klaus Augenthaler easily the man of the match, played a containing game, realising that only too well freak results can sometimes emerge from freak conditions.

In the end, Hearts won 1-0 for a deserved triumph. The long- range wallop from Iain Ferguson that almost tore a hole in the net made the entire night worthwhile. The Tynecastle outfit, almost dismissed as inferior opposition by the aloof Germans when the draw as made, again did well in the second leg, but, alas, Dame Fortune once again decided to give them short shrift.

John Colquhoun was out of luck on two occasions and the defence made the dreadful error of backing off Augenthaler as he surged forward. He really needed to be closed down, but instead they allowed him to pick up a full head of steam and manoeuvre into a shooting position to unleash a shot that rocketed home with power and precision.

The second was duly knocked in after a goalmouth scramble and that was that. If Bayern play like that against Rangers they will be zooming towards a swift exit. They reckon they have strangthened their team by signing former Celtic and Aston Villa striker Alan McInally, who, ironically, is an ex-colleague and best friend of a certain Mo Johnston.

Unless someone has fully explained the offside laws to McInally since I last saw him with Celtic, Rangers' back-four shouldn't have it too hard. Certainly Rambo has some redeeming features. He is a big lad, powerful and probably more skilful than a lot would imagine. But if the West Germans are thinking of hitting swiftly on the break during the first leg at Ibrox and firing through early balls from defence they will have to stress the importance of staying onside to McInally. Remember, even if you are level with a defender when the ball is played forward you are STILL offside. McInally never quite got a grip of that at Parkhead.

The controversy surrounding Mo Johnston and his on-off transfer to old club Celtic and his subsequent astonishing about- turn to sign for Rangers will never go away. The sooner Rangers and the player realise that the better. I heartily applaud Souness for knocking down the outrageous 116-year-old secterian barrier that kept out Roman Catholics from Ibrox, but I wonder if Johnston was the best choice to use in dynamiting the past and sending a whirlwind of change through the club.

Revenge

Anyway, that's another argument altogether. Rangers need Johnston against Bayern and he will have a huge task on his hands, especially with Ally McCoist and Kevin Drinkell suspended from the opening game.

In two out of the past three years West German clubs have taken care of Rangers and Celtic. I think it's time the Scots got ample revenge. Trevor Steven will add a new dimension to Rangers and his role will certainly help bring out the best in his former Everton colleague Gary Stevens, whose forays up the right wing will be a feature this season, I'm sure. If he can add accuracy to his final ball inside, Johnston and Co could have a field day.

I reckon Rangers will win this one. And what about Celtic? Manager Billy McNeill took the club through a transitional period when he rejoined them three seasons ago. The likes of Mo Johnston, Brian McClair, Alan McInally and Murdo MacLeod were moving out while he moved in and during that hectic summer he introduced the likes of Chris Morris, Billy Stark, Andy Walker and Mick McCarthy, Davie Hay's last signing for the club. Joe Miller and Frank McAvennie joined up during the season and the jigsaw looked complete as the club won both the Premier League and the Scottish Cup during their glorious Centenary celebrations.

Last season's League campaign was a nightmare, including 5-1 and 4-1 defeats from Rangers at Ibrox. The jigsaw is being put back in place this season.

Frank McAvennie has gone to the wilderness of the English Second Division to face the enthralling prospect of games at Barnsley, Bradford, Oldham and the like. Mo Johnston came and went with the speed of a passing bullet. McCarthy is now with Lyons in France, Mark McGhee is with Newcastle and will no doubt enjoy talking about the good old days when he meets up with McAvennie, and squad players Owen Archdeacon (Barnsley) and Tony Shepherd (Carlisle) have also moved out.

During the summer Billy McNeill outlayed £1.8 million to sign Mike Galloway (Hearts), Paul Elliott (Pisa) and Dariusz Dziekanowski (Legia Warsaw). Nearing the end of last season he also parted with £500,000 to capture Tommy Coyne, from Dundee. It's a fairly healthy looking squad and this season will surely see the emergence of left-sided youngsters Steve Fulton and David Elliott.

Dramatic

But if Celtic are to regain their status in Europe they must start now. Ten years plodding around the wilderness, merely making up the numbers and taking their place among the also-rans isn't good enough.

Dundee United are a team well-suited to European football, their entire game is geared to the swift counter-attack. Probably that's why they enjoy playing against Celtic so much. The Parkhead men still swarm forward in great numbers and show a remarkable indiscipline at the back, playing right into the hands of teams with players with the electrifying pace of Kevin Gallacher.

They'll get through okay. Aberdeen, too, should get it right against Vienna Rapid. Manager Alex Smith has had a year to work with his team and a definite pattern is emerging. Theo Snelders is an excellent goalkeeper and if there has been a more consistent centre-back in Scotland that Alex McLeish in the past eight years then I have yet to see him. Willie Miller rolls on relentlessly, despite injury problems last year, and we have still to see the best of Charlie Nicholas at Pittodrie. They should take care of the Austrians.

Hibs? It would be nice to think that all five Scottish outfits could get past the first hurdle. I was at Parkhead last season to see Celtic knock out Hungarian opposition in the shape of Honved, who went on to win the League last season. Honved led 1-0 from the first leg, but crumbled late in the game in Glasgow and finally toppled to a whopping 4-0 defeat. The main difference at the end of the day was Celtic's determination and their level of fitness. I'm not saying for an instant that Videoton will be a carbon copy of Honved, but if that particular level of match fitness is acceptable in Hungary then it is no wonder they have hardly made an impact in Europe for so long.

Thus the burden of Britain achieving something in Europe again falls on Scotland — with apologies to teams from Ireland and Wales.

Taylor report sets the standards

BY DERICK ALLSOP

THE interim report on the Hillsborough diaster serves to remind English football of the mountain it has to climb this season.

South Yorkshire Police, and in particular Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, are severly criticised for their handling of events at the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final April 15, when 95 fans died.

Mr Duckenfield, the main in charge of the police operation that fateful day in Sheffield, is said in Lord Justice Peter Taylor's report to have 'frozen' and failed in his duty to control the crowd. He was suspended on full pay and his Chief Constable, Peter Wright offered his resignation.Investigations could lead to criminal prosecutions.

Liverpool and their fans welcomed these findings, just as the game in general welcomed the Taylor Report's recommendations on crowd safety.

Potentially the most controversial proposal was for a 15 per cent reduction in terrace capacity at every ground. But there was no public objection from the clubs, and both the FA and League expressed their approval.

Unbeaten

Administrators realise they must also rebuild the image of English soccer, both at home and abroad confidence and stature need to be restored.

The players, too, must accept their responsibility and with clubs still outlawed from European competition an even greater burden rests on the shoulders of the international squad. Even more so in World Cup year.

Bobby Robson and his charges came through last season unbeaten to resist the mounting pressure from the critics and give England the box seat for the closing stages of the qualifying proceedings.

September 6, however, is a critical date. England visit Sweden, a nation capable of standing its ground against any opposition, when they are traditionally at their most vulnerable.

English players have barely flexed their muscles by this stage of the seas. Their game may not yet be fine-tuned, team co- ordination could well be below par.

Robson should, however, be able to depend on the spirit that lifted the team after the miseries of the European Championships last year.

One man who believes Italy holds greater promise than West Germany for the England side is Ron Atkinson, whose football travels have now taken him to Sheffield Wednesday.

He says: "I certainly expect a better showing from England than they gave on the European stage. We simply didn't do ourselves justice there.

"If we play to our capability — and we are capable of good performances — then we could have a strong run in Italy. I'm not saying we are going to win the World Cup, but we should be able to come away with our heads held up.

"We do have some good players and we will hopefully demonstrate the best of our qualities. Above all, I'm sure everyone connected with the squad wil be determined to make amends for last year. They know how important it is to produce the goods this time." FOR all that optimism, Atkinson concedes he is concerned about the general quality of the English game at club level. Atkinson who had a brief spell in charge of Atletico Madrid last season, says: "When I cam back from abroad I honestly thought the standard of the First Division was lower that it had been the previous season. It seemed to me there were a lot of functional sides, well organised, able to get reasonable results and make it difficult for the better sides.

"But we don't seem to be developing

Above: Lord Justice Taylor. Left: Vital clash — Sweden v England on September 6

WORLD CUP IS JUST ENGLISH SOCCER'S

the sort of constructive players that are beng encouraged in other countries. We need players with skill, imagination, quality.

"It doesn't help when we out of European club football and the danger is thzt we will fall still further back. As long as we recognise that danger we can at least attempt to do something about it."

Atkinson, having steered Wednesday clear of relegation last season, is now intent on making his reinforced squad respected citizens of the First Division.

"We've got to be looking to go forward from here," he says. "There's nothing to say we can't do a Norwich this season. What they did last year should encourage a number of clubs. Coventry and Derby also did well compared with some of the so-called big clubs.

"Having said that, I can see Tottenham and Manchester United, as well as Liverpool and Arsenal, showing up well. Terry Venables seems to have got things moving at Spurs and United have strengthened their midfield. You need goals and Gary Lineker should give Spurs 20 or more a season.

"Neil Webb should work well alongside Bryan Robson for United and the pair of them are likely to knock in a fair few goals. With goals from midfield. Mark Hughes and Brian McClair up front, they could be a force. Arsenal did tremendously well last season and they could do it again. But you would have to be a dummy if you didn't think the team that comes above Liverpool will win the Championship.

"They were so close to the double until that late Arsenal goal decided the title and they'll be hungry to get it back. They set the standards year after year and you can be sure they will be up there again.

"After last season we are asll looking for an exciting season, something to give us all a lift. There's been an upward trend in gates and hopefully we can maintain that."

United, one of Atkinson's former clubs, were instructed by a transfer tribunal to pay nottingham Forest £1.5 million for England player Webb. It is the highest fee set by such a body.

Away from Old Trafford have gone Northern Ireland international Norman Whiteside and Republic of Ireland's Paul McGrath, two players who have had their disciplinary skimishes with United mamnager Alex Ferguson. Whiteside has joined Everton ina deal that could give United £750,000, while McGrath has cost Aston Villa a £400,000 transfer fee plus a personal contract worth £350,000 over three years.

Liverpool, having signed Sweden central defender Glenn Hysen when United thought he was theirs, concentrated on securing the services of two players already at Anfield.

Manager Kenny Dalglish returned from holiday to seal a new contract that will keep midfield man Steve McMahon at the club for six years, so ending speculation of a move to Sampdoria. Striker Peter Beardsley has been linked with a number of Continental clubs but both he and Liverpool have again insisted he is staying on Merseyside.

Wembley's dubious curtain-raiser to the season, the Makita International produced an Arsenal-Liverpool decider. Arsenal carried on where they left off in the spring, winning 1-0 thanks to a headed goal by Steve Bould.

Alex Gordon analyses Scotland's World Cup chances

Johnston strikes against Cyprus but how far will the Scots go in Italy?

FLOPLAND AGAIN?

It depends on the luck of the draw

WE are swiftly approaching that point in time when your average Scottish international fan is easily identified in a crowd . . .

He is the one with the obvious nervous twitch and the faint trace of foam forming on the lips. Yes, it's World Cup time again and it looks odds-on that Andy Roxburgh's robots will be participating in the greatest show on earth in Italy next year.

Realistically, only one point separates Scotland from mixing with the elite next summer. Surely, and hopefully I am not being too optimistic, the Scots will be able to annex that solitary point from one of their games against France and Yugoslavia, both away, and Norway at Hampden.

And what happens after that? In the past the answer has been painfully swift: NOT A LOT!

Scotland have reached the last four World Cup Finals in West Germany '74, Argentina '78, Spain '82 and Mexico '86 and, despite an avalanche of hard luck stories and a whirlwind of what-might- have-beens, they have never reached beyond the first stage.

Their record in these Finals is hardly awesome. The Scots have played 12 games and emerged victorious on only three occasions against — Zaire, New Zealand and — how on earth did they get in here? — Holland.

Is there anything to suggest that Scotland have a little more to offer this time around, assuming, of course, that they do win one point out of a possible six?

If you went on the evidence of the Rous Cup-tie against England at Hampden in May they would be better off forgetting all about making the trip in the first place. Certainly there was nothing on display that afternoon that would frighten the mighty in Italy. In fact, you would be hard pushed to terrify the minnows on that performance.

Feeble

Scotland lacked ideas and fusion against Bobby Robson's outfit and Peter Shilton could play on until he is 60 and still not lose a goal after the feeble attempts that came his way that day.

Mo Johnston and Ally McCoist were smothered against England. They huffed and puffed, but if just was not good enough and it most certainly will not be good enough in Italy.

Sadly, too many Scots think it is a magnificent achievement just to reach the World Cup Finals. Count me out. I would like to see my nation do something worthwhile as the world looks on. Personally, I am fed up to the back teeth and beyond when people remind me of those demented displays against the likes of Iran, Peru and 10-man Uruguay.

It would be a major breakthrough in status if Scotland were to emerge victorious in their opening games, but, I suppose, a lot will depend on the luck of the draw in December.

Things weren't too bright four years ago when the ballot threw Scotland in with Denmark, West Germany and Uruguay. It was known as the Group of Hell. After four-and-a-half hours of football the Scottish players and fans had, indeed, come through hell, if not the section.

Two defeats from the Danes and West Germans and a goalless draw against the brutal warriors of Uruguay and it was farewell to Mexico and back home to Scotland. Again.

This World Cup campaign has been interesting and entertaining. The 2-1 triumph in Oslo against the Norwegians with a quality goal from Paul McStay and a grabbed half-chance from Johnston was a wonderful kick-off.

Who could forget the injury-time winner from Richard Gough against the irate Cypriots? They got what they deserved. Possibly they will now concentrate on playing football rather than rolling around their cow-patch of a field trying to outdo each other in the agony stakes. I've seen Mike Tyson victims take defeat better. And look better while doing so!

The match against France at Hampden was, of course, the night to remember. It was a storm-lashed March evening, but the loyal fans forgot about the atrocious elements as Johnston netted two typically opportunist efforts.

Undoubtedly, for me, that was one of the best attacking performances I have seen from a Scottish international player since the glory days of a certain Denis Law. Johnston's display that miserable evening was outstanding.

It would appear that the controversial little raider is quite at home in the middle of a storm. He gets involved in a few, that's for certain.

Weather like that in Italy would be a god-send to Scotland, if not for the holiday-maker. Unfortunately, the sun will probably be bursting in the skies and that will immediately transfer everyone's thoughts to a certain game against Brazil in the Spanish World Cup in '82.

David Narey's celebrated 'toe poke' jolted the-then World Cup favourites and it took a typical mesmerising free-kick goal from Zico past the typically mesmerised Alan Rough to give the Brazilians an equaliser before half-time.

The world caved in during the second period and three more efforts found their way past Rough, utterly exposed by a team drained of strength and power. As Tommy Docherty would say: "At least their tongues got a good suntan."

Steve Archibald was Scotland's solitary attacker for long spells that blistering evening and he recalls: "It really drained you playing in that stifling heat.

"We prepared as best we could for the game, but, in the end, it took its toll. The Brazilians lapped it up. They actually enjoyed playing in those conditions. It made us feel even worse."

"You can only look at the other side of the coin. How would they have coped in Britain in the middle of December or January, playing in ankle-thick mud with snow swirling around in sub-zero temperatures? I would fancy our chances then!"

Unless God was born in Glasgow it's unlikely that similar conditions will emerge in Italy. What a shame!

Problems

Roxburgh, quite rightly, dismisses all talk of World Cup Finals until it is mathematically impossible for Scotland to be caught in Section Five where two nations will qualify. Yugoslavia, a well-drilled, extremely competent unit, are already certainties and they will undoubtedly pose problems in Italy.

The ground rules of Italy MUST start now. In the past Scotland have gone into World Cup Finals still swithering about which player should be playing where. Graeme Souness, for instance, sat out the matches in '78 against Peru and Iran before being, rightfully, restored to the team against Holland.

Other mistakes have been made in the other Finals. Why on earth was an undoubtedly unfit Gordon McQueen taken to Argentina while Andy Gray, at the time one of the most lethal strikers in Britain, left at home to twiddle his thumbs?

In truth, there has been a catalogue of errors. Now, however, is the time to think positive. For instance, what is Scotland's best defensive double-act in front of Jim Leighton?

The midfield is another problem area. Does the Scottish style revolve around a three-man partnership of a more cautious four-man outfit? Paul McStay must be given his head and be told to go out there and display his explosion of skills.

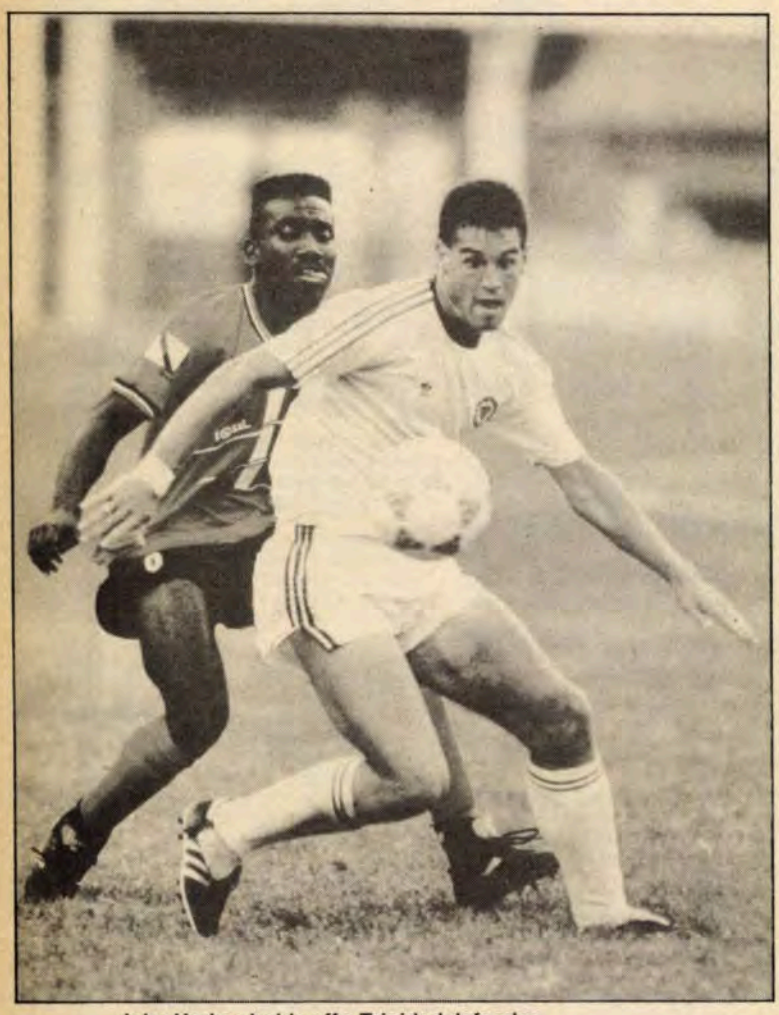
When you sift through the quality players available to Scotland you wonder why the nation isn't considered more than second class or, dare I say it, third class by other countries.

Anyway, in the words of the immortal song: "Here we go . . . here we go . . ."

FROM PAUL GARDNER in New York

GAME CRAZY

Is the States playing too much football?



John Harkes holds off a Trinidad defender.

Will the States be celebrating World Cup qualification?

NEW YORK — Last autumn, the United States Soccer Federation decided to pay salaries (or was it grants?) to 16 of the country's top players. The average amount was around $22,000 per player, and the USSF, in effect, became the players' employer.

But one was not supposed to talk in those terms, for fear of upsetting the USSF's cosy relationship with the United States Olympic movement, or of attracting the attention of the tax man. The reason for the move was very clear: to make sure that those players were available when the USSF needed them for national team duty, and in particular for the eight World Cup qualifying games to played this year.

But once the players had signed up, it seems that new factors came into play. It was like having money in your pocket: if it's there, you spend it. So with the national team players: they were there, they were being paid, so they should be used — as much as possible, not just for the occasional World Cup qualifier.

Within weeks of the contracts being completed, the players were packed off to the Netherlands to play in the first FIFA Indoor World Cup.

"Great, just great," remarked one of them, "I sign up with the USSF because I don't want to play in the Major Indoor Soccer League, and the first thing they want me to do is travel 3,000 miles — to play indoors."

Since then the life of the national team players has been one merry round of travel and tournaments. It is also becoming apparent that the team possesses a curiosity value. For the first time in history, the USA is now an attraction.

The USSF receives regular invitations for the team to play in major foreign tournaments. With the US to be the host of World Cup-94, people want to see what the country's national team looks like. If the number of games played is what makes a winning team, then the USA — with some 25 already played this year and 10 more to come — is heading for success.

Some famous victories have been recorded, too — over Benfica and Peru in the New York Marlboro Cup, over Guadalajara of Mexico and Ruch Chorzow of Poland in the Chicago Marlboro Cup, and over Roma during a recent trip to Italy.

Against that, therea re two negatives. The excellent results just mentioned ought, surely, to mean that the USA shouldn't have too much trouble handling the likes of Costa Rica or Guatemala or Trinidad in the World Cup qualifiers.

But the USA has had a *lot* of trouble with these games, struggling mightily to beat Costa Rica and Guatemala by one goal, and dropping a home point to Trinidad.

With such a record, the US presence in Italy is by no means guaranteed. But it is still an odds-on bet that the USA will be there, if only because of the almost slapstick disarray of its opponents.

Consider: Costa Rica needed two coaches for their eight games, Guatemala have played three games and are already on their second coach, while El Salvador have got through three different coaches in four games.

Hectic

Trinidad & Tobago — coached by a former New York Cosmos player, Everald Cummings — is the team that nobody rated, yet it may yet be the one that gives the USA most trouble.

The second problem with the USA's hectic schedule is that, sooner or later, it is going to cause tiredness and injury problems.

Fatigue seems the most likely explanation for the team's poor showing in its most recent tournament, the Los Angeles Marlboro Cup, where it lost to both Juventus and South Korea.

Only four days earlier it had been in Italy, at the *Torneo Baretti*, losing Sampdoria 0-1, then upsetting Roma 4-3 by scoring three second-half goals in an eight minute blitz. While there, the USA had come in for some praise from the Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov, who felt that some of the American playrs "certainly warrant a look by some Italian teams — especially Hugo Perez."

Boskov's tip-off about Perez was a little too late to be of any use to Italian clubs. A French 2nd division team, Red Star-93 of Paris, got there first and signed him up. Long considered the class of the US team, the El Salvadoran-born Perez was a real bargain for Red Star-93 because they got him without having to pay a transfr fee. It was part of the USSF's original deal when they signed the players that it would help them in negotiations with foreign clubs and would not demand a transfer fee. In return, the USSF insists that the player be made available for important national team games.

While Perez has departed for Europe, another player — Paul Caligiuri — has mae the return journey. Firmly established as a starter with the West German 2nd division team SV Meppen, Caligiuri has decided to quit the club and to return to the USA as a full-time national team player.

As such, he has been added to the list of "grant" receivers while two of the country's better known players have been dropped from the list. Former Cosmos star and national team captain Rick Davis, now a member of the over-30 brigade, has been slow to recover from knee surgery, so he has been cut. That was not too surprising. But the ditching of forward Brent Goulet was a real shock.

Goulet has proved himself the most efficient goal-scorer the national tam has ever had. He places third on the all-time list behind Rick Davis (9 goals in 43 games) and Willy Roy (8 in 20). Goulet has seven goals — but has needed only 12 games to get them.

The cut was particularly odd, because coach Bob Gansler is not limited to any set number of players, he did not have to cut Goulet to make room for anyone else. The rumours were that Goulet was unhappy with Gansler's tactics, and that he was showing it by not giving 100 per cent. Ganslwer, laconic as evr, simply remarked that Goulet "had not found his old form."

* * *

Meanwhile, back at the ranch in Colorado Springs, the USSF held its AGM against a background of much discontent with President Werner Fricker. He was accused of financial irresponsibility, of not communicating with other USSF officers, and of running the USSF in a dictatorial fashion.

His response to the charges was to deny all of them and to suggest that if there were problems within the USSF, most of them came from the people making the accusations. "I am not dictatorial," said Fricker, "I am demanding. I expect performance." As for communication, "that's a two-way thing. There has been none from the senior or youth divisions of the USSF up to me." Sounding decidedly at bay, Fricker likened the USSF situation to "five people in a row boat with leaks. Two people are working, one plugging, one bailing . . . and the other three say they want a meeting, you're not plugging fast enough — rather than helping with the plugging or bailing." Fricker left no doubt in anyone's mind that he was one of the workers.

Rights

His come-out-swinging style of defence evidently paid off at the AGM, for most of the votes went his way, and there was no motion to unseat him. In particular, Fricker guided through (or manoeuvred through, or rammed through — it depends on your viewpoint) a television deal that will ensure about $1 million a year for the next five years for the national team programme.

Basically, it involves the trading of all rights to the US national team games up to and including the 1994 World Cup (but excluding any games the USA might play in the 1990 World Cup) to the TV network NBC and its cable affiliate, Sports Channel. In return, the USSF is guaranteed 290 hours of TV time for national team games during that period.

If that were 290 hours on the NBC network, joy would be unbounded. But it is on Sports Channel — a struggling cable service that has fewer than 10 million subscribers, a pathetically low figure in TV viewership. What made some people suspicious of the deal was that it was presented in a great rush, with a take-it-or-leave-it attitude. There are, too, those who feel that — given the rapidly changing nature of the television industry, and of TV sports in particular, holding out the possibility of ever-increasing pay-offs — it was very unwise of the USSF to negotiate a long term contract.

Craig Forrest . . . recalled

Canada take gold in Morocco

COLIN JOSE REPORTS

SUCCESS in life often comes from unexpected quarters, and for Canada's national soccer team there can be none more unexpected than having won the gold medal at the first ever Francophone Games in Morocco.

With a young and largely inexperienced team made up of first and second string players from the Canadian Soccer League, plus two European professionals, Canada entered this tournament more as a learning experience than with any hope of winning a medal. But win they did, outclassing the host Moroccans 4-1 in the final played before 65,000 fans in Casablanca.

These first games for the French speaking nations of the world, featured only a limited number of teams and sports of which soccer was by far the most popular with the people of Morocco.

Surprisingly given the popularity of soccer in Africa the soccer competion comprised only ten teams with Canada, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) and the Ivory Coast making up one group. Morocco, Madagascar, Chad and the Congo another and France, Gabon and Senegal the third.

Conspicuous by their absence from the soccer competition were such Africa countries as Tunisa and Algeria and European countries such as Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland, perhaps because of too many soccer competions, or just waiting for the first competition to get off the ground.

Like Canada the stronger nations did not field their full national teams with Morocco and the Ivory Coast fielding "B" teams while France fielded a team said to be made up of young professionals who were in the army.

With a 3-1 win over Burkina Faso and a scoreless tie against the Ivory Coast, the Canadians won their group and qualified for the semi-final where they beat the Congo 2-1. France and Morocco, who topped their groups, met in the other semi-final with Morocco winning 3-0, thus setting up a final for which Morocco were the firm favourites.

In the final Canada took the lead in the 28th minute through Rick Jasken, a striker who is a second team player with the Victoria Vistas of the Canadian Soccer League. Jasken scored again the 32nd minute and Canada got further goals before half time from Lyndon Hooper of the Toronto Blizzard and 18-year-old Kevin Holness, who plays local soccer in Regina, Saskatchewn. All of the moves stemmed from the Canadian left where Dominic Mobilio of the Vancouver 86ers tore the Moroccan defence apart.

The Moroccans scored on a penalty kick in the 40th minute to take the score 3-1 but Hooper's goal gave Canada a 4-1 lead at half time a lead they held until the end of the game.

Training

Coached by former Canadian international and Ipswich Town player, Bruce Twamley, and led by Enzo Concina of Piacenza one of a growing number of Canadian professionals playing in Europe, Canada played with a remarkable poise and confidence in the final which belied the teams overall lack of experience.

Canada started the competition with Craig Forrest of Ipswich Town in goal but when he was recalled to England for pre-season training, Twamley was left with two goalkeepers with very little first class and no national team experience. Shel Brodsgaard, second team goalkeeper for the Victoria Vistas played against the Congo in the semi-final, and Rob Merkly, second team goalkeeper for the Vancouver 86ers played in the final.

Twamley, had promised both goalkeepers a game. Neither goalkeeper let the team down and in fact Merkl commanded the penalty area in the final to such an extent that he had to have inspired the players in front of him.

"Forrest was brillant in the game against the Ivory Coast," said assistant coach Kevin Muldoon. "Going into that game the entire team was suffering from diarrhea, and I don't ever recall seeing a team come off the field at half time more tired."

The Canadian team stayed at the Naval Institute in Casablanca where Muldoon explained that conditions were less than ideal. He said: "We were 21 people on one floor with one toilet that didn't flush, and we all had diarrhea, so you can imagine the line up. There were no screens on the windows of our rooms and at night if you left the windows open you were eaten by mosquitos. With the windows closed it was stifling."

Canada's success in Morocco is the one bright light in an otherwise disturbing picture at the national and professional level in Canada triggered in part by the national teams elimination from the 1990 World Cup by Guatemala. With that elimination, expected sponsorships did not materialise and a simultaneous cut in government funding has forced the Canadian Soccer Association to reduce staff and curtail its plans for the national team.

Soccer in Canada continues to be a participation and not a spectator sport and the resulting fiscal problems this brings has brought three teams in the Canadian Soccer League to the verge of collapse. So far this season the Montreal Supra have (by agreement) not paid their players, then first the Ottawa Intrepid and more recently the Calgary Strikers have been within hours of having played their last games.

All three franchises hope to regroup at the end of the season, but significantly, all are searching for new sponsors to bankroll the team. One new franchise — the Nova Scotia Clippers — will be added to the league next year.

Meanwhile the Vancouver 86ers go from strength to strength and have now gone 41 games (39 regular season and two play off games) without defeat, a North American professional sports record. They lead the Western Division by 12 points over the Edmonton Brickmen, while in the east the Toronto Blizzard are in a three way fight with the North York Rockets and the Hamilton Steelers.

AMERICA PUSH LUCKLESS PUEBLA UNDER

CARLOS F. RAMIREZ reports on a dramatic climax to the Mexican Championship

THERE is an old Mexican saying which refers to any project that fails in the critical and final moment: "Se Ahogo en la Orilla" (He drowned upon reaching the beach).

This could justly apply to Puebla the best team in the league, with 20 wins, 13 draws and only 5 defeats in 38 matches. Yet they could not reach the final.

In a sense, there is something of revenge about it. Six years ago under similar circumstances Puebla eliminated Guadalajara in the play-offs. Guadalajara had been the best team in the league that year. This year the position was reversed: when Guadalajara beat Puebla 3-0, they not only ended a string of 22 consecutive home matches played by Puebla without defeat, but also killed all their hopes of reaching the final.

Experience

Not that it helped Guadalajara either, since America remarkably scored the needed goals a few hours later and in turn eliminated Guadalajara.

Although there were some comments regarding biased refereeing in the play-offs which helped America (owned by Televisa, the communications giant) reach the final match, the truth of the matter is that they demonstrated the importance of experience and intelligent use of seasoned reserves in short play-off series.

Carlos Seixas, a Brazilian, and Efrain Munguia, a Mexican, both of whom had hardly seen any action during the regular tournament, were key players in decisive matches where America galloped away with the right to play for the title.

When the regular season ended, the eight teams classified for the play-offs were:

The system is unfair since teams like Morelia, Necaya and U. de G. had more points and better permances than Pumas and Tecos.

This year a new formula was applied, which divided the eight finalists arranged by points obtained during the regular season into groups A and B, each playing a home-and-away round robin.

Then the winner of each group went automatically to the final.

Atlante and Tampico-Madero (Group B), despite a more consistent campaign than Cruz Azul, could not overcome the good soccer played by the "cementeros" (so called because they are sponsored by the second largest cement factory in Mexicao) and were eliminated.

However, Mario Velarde, coach of Cruz Azul, made the mistake of resting three of his key players in the final match of the play- offs and as a reuslt they suffered an unexpected 4-2 defeat by Pumas UNAM which was already eliminated. This provided an opportunity for Tampico-Madero: if they won the final match against Atlante by a two-goal margin, they would go to the final. This was possible since Tampic-Madero scored 87 goals in the leage, more than anybody and Atlante did not have any chance of qualifying. However, Atlante played bravely and tied the match 2-2, thus eliminating the "tampiquenoz".

A different story was written in Group A. As mentioned Puebla, the best team in the league, played cautiously their first four matches, winning one and tying the other three. They then went to visit Guadalajara, who at that time had two wins and two losses. A last-minute goal by Omar Arellano (son of a former Guadalajara internation of the 1954 World Cup) turned Group A into a free for all. Guaralajara, coached by Alberto Guerra for the last season finished with one more point than Puebla.

So everything was to be decided in the last round, since America had beaten "Tecos" UAG on their home ground. Tecos werre a disappointment because on paper they had one of the best teams of the league, but Bora Milutinovic was unable to develop motivation and will to win and he himself had been sacked two months before the play-offs.

Came Sunday, July 19 and the two decisive matches of the group: Puebla v Guadalajara and America v Tecos.

Guadalajara exploded in the second half and, in just 12 minutes, scored three times to beat Puebla on their own ground. Thus, the only way America could go to the final was by beating Tecos with at least a three-goal difference. The first half of this match played at Aztec Stadium in the afternoon (three hours after the Puebla match) saw America ahead 1-0, after Tecos had missed two easy chances and hitting the woodwork. These two infantile errors by the UAC defence, allowed America to score two more goals and before the match was over they had a fourth.

The unfair nature of the play-off system is proven by the fact that, in the 19 times since 1970 that the championship has been decided in this fashion, the team with more points in the regular campaign has not won the title nine times.

But, since the system was approved by all teams for financial reasons, they must accept the risk of losing in one single match all the sustained effort of a full season. On the positive side, the play-offs earned a grand totle of more than $2 1/1 million dollars.

And so to the final Cruz Azul had been one of the best teams in the second half of the regular tournament and always having to come from behind played excellent soccer in the two-match decider.

Since both America and Cruz Azul use the Aztec stadium as their home ground, they had to toss a coin to determine who was host in the first match — an important decision to apply the home-and-away goals regulation. Cruz Azul hosted the first exciting match played in front of 92,000 fans on a rainy Thursday night.

Cruz Azul had clear superiority but two debatable referee decisions gifted two goals to America. First, when full back Mojica aimed a free kick to goakeeper Larios. Zague was two yards behind him, clearly in an irregular position as signalled by the linesman; he got the ball and scored easily. Despite Cruz Azul protests, the referee ignored the linesman and awarded the goal. Later Zague, now in an off-sde position also signalled by the linesman, passed to Hermosillo who scored a second.

Even though Cruz Azul came from behind and tied the match seven minutes before the end, referee Edgardo Codesal (son of the famous Uruguayan refereeiof the same name),

	W	D	L	GOALS	FINAL PTS	POS	GROUP
PUEBLA	20	14	5	73-31	54	1	A
Atlante	20	9	9	59-41	49	2	B
Tampico-Madero	20	7	11	87-56	47	3	B
Guadalajara	29	9	10	66-43	47	4	A
America	17	9	12	58-40	43	6	A
Cruz Azul	16	11	11	68-59	43	7	B
Pumas UNAM	13	15	10	42-30	41	10	B
Tecos UAG	13	12	13	51-51	38	11	A

RUNNERS-UP CRUZ AZUL

BACK: Narciso Cuevas, Ricardo Mojica, Hector Esparza, Pablo Larios and Juan Alvarez. FRON: Pedro Duana, Mario Cacho, Armando Romero, Alberto Ordiales, Jose Luis Malibran and Porfirio Jimenez.

CHAMPIONS AMERICA

BACK: Cecilio de los Santos, Juan Hernandez, Alfredo Tena, Carlos A. Santos, Adrian Chavez and Enrique Huerta. FRONT: Alejandro Dominguez, Carlos Hermosillo, Cristobal Ortega, Adrian Camacho and Roberto Alves "Zague".

awarded America a penalty-kick and thus they won the first match 3-2.

America were home team in the return. Cruz Azul needed to win with a two goal difference to be champions because of the three goals conceded as home team.

Cruz Azul have an interesting combination of young inexperienced players (Duana, Jimenez, Cueas) and veterans (Fuentes, Larios, Patricio Hernandez, Romero). They promise t become a top team starting next season. In the second match, however, they committed too many defensive mistakes in front of a record 120,000 crowd.

Six minutes after the kick-off taking advantage of one such error, Juan Hernandez put America 4-2 up on aggregate but playing excellent soccer, marking by zones instead of indivisually. Cruz Azul took control of the game and once more, coming from behind, scored two goals. Now the situation had changed: tied at four- all, whoever scored one goal would win the pennant.

The decisive moment was the product of America's experience and the inexperience of Cruz Azul's defence. In the 77th minute, with the "cementeros" attacking, America's Santos set up a counter attack. Watching Carlos Hermosillo coming in on the other sider, he feigned to shoot drawing two defenders and leaving Hermosillo clear to receive the ball and score.

In four matches played as home team in the Aztec stadium, America took a hefty 3-billion pesos yet the presiden of America refused to an immediate bonus to the players.

"All year we played poor soccer, and we wsere lucky to be champions", he said. "Now we have to show how good we really are beating Toluca in the Supercup!"

There is talk that Jorge Vieira, the Brazilian coach of America (who coahced Iraw in the 1986 World Cup), Santos, Huerta and Munguia will leave. Since Hermosillo will play in Belgium next season and Zague wants to go to Spain, this would represent a welcome overhaul for the most controversial team in Mexican football.

PLAY-OFF DETAILS

Pumas UNAM 2 (L.Garcia, Negrete), **Atlante 2** (D. Juarex, C. Lopex OG). Mexico City University Stadium, 46,000.

Cruz Azul 2 (Duana, P. Hernandez), **Tampico Madero 1** (Lira). Aztec Stadium, Mexico City, 82,000.

Tecos Uag 2 (Zayala, J. Hernandez), **Puebla 2** (Bernal 2). 3 de Marzo. Guadalajara, 23,500.

America 2 (Hernandez, Seixas), **Guadalajara 1** (Valdez) Mexico City Aztec Stadium, 90,000.

Tampico Madero 1 (Life GP), **Cruz Azul 0. Tamaulipas Stadium, 32,000.**

Atlante 1 (Romano), **Pumas UNAM 1** (Garcia Aspe). Mexico City Azulgrana Stadium 37,500.

Guadalajara 2 (Madero, Galindo), **America 1** (Santos). Jalisco Stadium, Guadalajara, 65,000.

Puebla 2 (Arabena, Poblete), **Tecos UAG 1** (Romero OG). Cuauhtemoc Stadium Puebla, 46,500.

Pumas UNAM 5 (Vazquez 2, Garcia Aspe, Patino 2) Tampico Madero 1 (Rosas). Morelos Stadium, Morelia 40,000 (Pumas local their stadium banned).

Cruz Azul 3 (Hernandez GP, Manzo, Cuevas), **Atlante 1** (Moses) Mexico City Aztec Stadium — 84,500.

Tecos UAG 1 (Chavez Medrano), **Guadalajara 0. 3 de Marzo, Guadalajara, 30,000.**

America 2 (De los Santos, Rosete OG), **Puebla 2** (Poblete, Arayena). Mexico City Aztec Stadium — 750,000.

Tampico Madero 1 (Bacas), **Pumas UNAM 0.** Tamaulipas Stadium, 31,500.

Puebla 1 (Romero), **America 1** (Farfan). Cuauhtemoc Stadium Puebla, 45,300.

Atlante 2 (Ingrao, Juarez), **Cruz Azul 3** (Cuevas 2, Mojica).

Mexico City Azulgrana Stadium, 41,000.

Guadalajara 2 (Aquiree, Galindo GP), **Tecos UAG 0, Jalisco Stadium. Guadalajara, 62,200.**

Pumas UNAM 0, Cruz Azul 1 (Duana). Mexico City Azulgrana Stadium, 48 500 (Pumas loal).

Tecos UAG 0. Americal 2 (Seixas 2). 3 de Marzo Stadium Guadalajara — 38,400.

Tampico Madero 3 (M.Hernandez 2, Lira), **Atlante 0. Tamaulipas Stadium, Tampico — 33,000.**

Guadalajara 1 (Arellano), **Puebla 0. Jalisco Stadium Guadalajara, 65,000.**

Cruz Azul 1 (Duana GP), **Pumas UNAM 4** (Negrete GP, Patino 2, Castillo). Mexico City Aztec Stadium, 63,000.

Guadalajarra 3 (Galindo 2, Arellano), Puebla 0, Cuauhtemoc Stadium Puebla, 43,600.

Atlante 2 (Medina, Ambriz), **Tampic Mader 2** (Bacas, ra). Azulgrana Stadium Mexico City 26,700.

America 4 (Huerta, Farfan Seixas, Hermosillo), **Tecos UAG 0.**

Mexico City Aztec Stadium, 77,000.

GROUP "A"

	P	W	D	L	G	Pts
America	6	3	2	1	12-6	8
Guadalajara	6	4	0	2	9-4	8
Puebla	6	1	3	1	7-10	5
Tecyos UAG	6	1	1	4	4-12	3

GROUP "B"

	P	W	D	L	G	Pts
Cruz Azul	6	4	0	2	10-9	8
Tampico Madero	6	3	1	2	9-9	7
Pumas UNAM	6	2	2	2	12-7	6
Atlante	6	0	3	3	8-14	3

FINAL — FIRST LEG (JULY 13)

Cruz Azul 2 (Jimenez, Cuevas)
America 3 (Hermosillo, Zague, Santos)
Att: 92,000. **Ref:** Codesa.
Cruz Azul: Larios, Alvarex, Fuentes*, Mojica, Esparza Duana*, Romero, P. Hernandez, Constantino (Arias 46), Jimenenz, Cueyas.
*Sent off.
America: Chavez, J. Hernandez, Huerta, Tena, De los Santos, Ortega, Farfan, Santos, Camacho, (Dominguez 46), Hermosillo, Zague (Seixas 74)

SECOND LEG (JULY 16)

America 2 (J. Hernandez, Hermosillo)
Cruz Azul 2 (P. Hernandez, Mojica)
Att: 120,000. **Ref:** Garza Ochoa.
America: Chavez, J. Hernandez, Tena (Cordoba 22'), Huerta, de los Santos, Ortega, Dominguez, Farfarn, Santos, Hermosillo, Zague (Seixas 71').
Cruz Azul: Larios, Alvarex (Guerra 65@), Fuentes (Manzo 80@), Esparza, Mojica, Arias, Romero, P. Hernandez, Duana, Jimenez, Cuevas.

(AMERICA 5-4 ON AGGREGATE)

Relegated: Atletico Potosino (San Luis Potosi). Promoted: Potros Neza (Leon). Leading Scorer: Serio Lira (Tampico Madero) 29 goals.

Costa Rica celebrate after their 1-0 win over El Salvador

Costa Rica start dreaming of Italy

By ERIC WEIL

COSTA Rica virtually assured themselves of a place in next year's World Cup finals for the first time when they beat El Salvador 1- 0 in San Jose in July to complete their fixtures in the CONACAF final qualifying round with 11 points from five wins, one draw and two defeats.

Two teams qualify for Italy 90 from this group and mathematically all the other participants could still pass Costa Rica's points total, but as there are still nine games to go in which these teams — United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala and El Salvador — will be playing each other it is virtually impossible for more than one to overtake Costa Rica.

Meanwhile, El Salvador was barred indefinitely from hosting World Cup qualifying games following their home game against Costa Rica in June which the latter won 4-2 and during which fans threw objects onto the field.

As a result, El Salvador's next home game against the United States was temporarily suspended and then re-scheduled to take place in Honduras on September 17. For CONACAF this seemed a good way out giving in to pressure from Costa Rica, the United States and other countries who did not want to play in El Salvador for what they termed security reasons.

Guatemala, who have so far played only three final round games and have won one and lost two of them, have replaced their local coach Jorge Roldan, with Uruguayan Ruben Matos hoping for better things in their remaining matches.

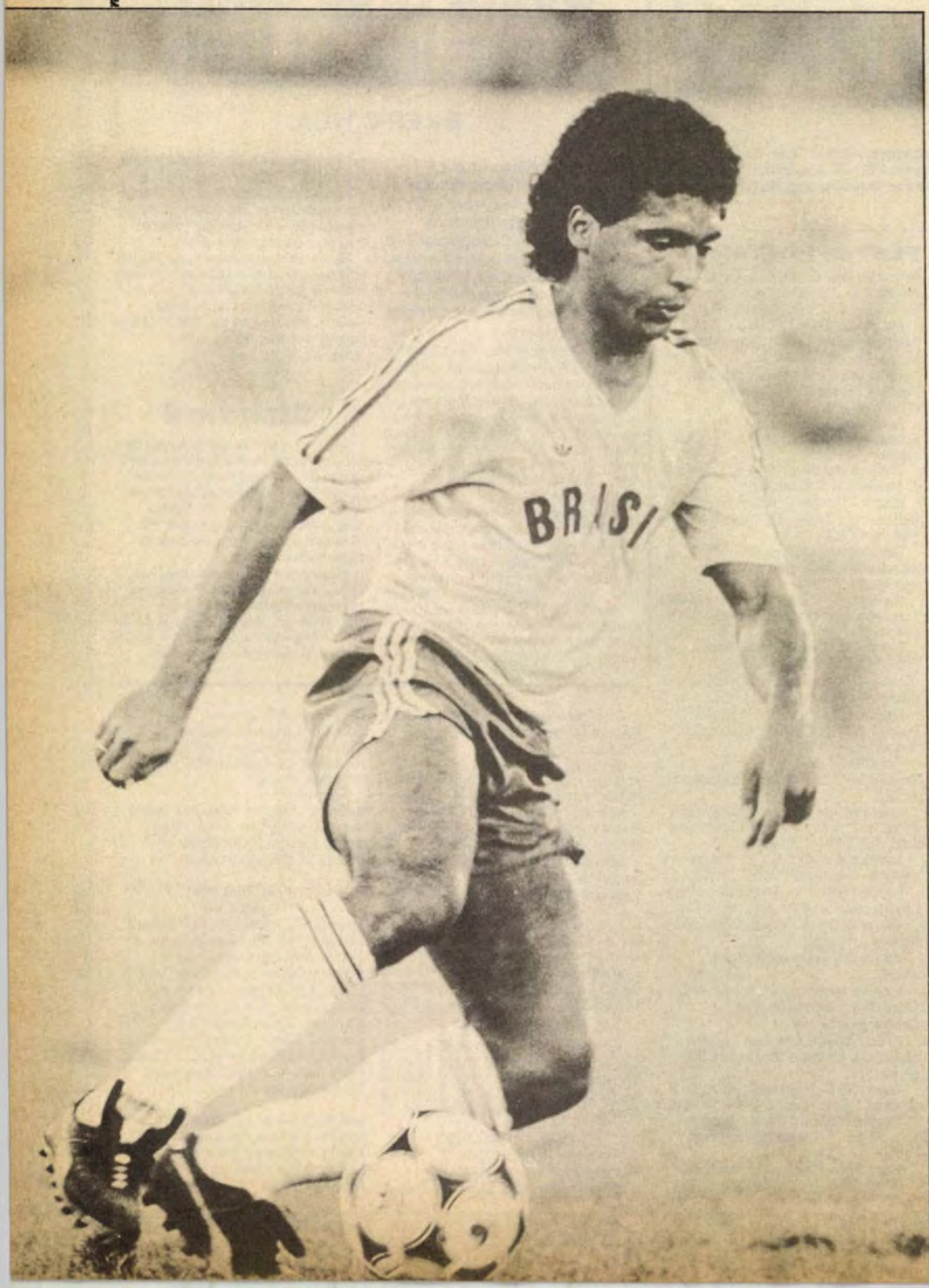
Standard

Mexico — whose two-year ban by FIFA wil keep them out of the current World Cup — want to play in future South American Championships as they realise they are continually bogged down in a zone where the standard of soccer played is much lower than their own.

Mexican officials realise they are unlikely to be accepted . Failing this, Mexicao would like to have a Panamerican Championship and also restart playing regular matches for the "Amistad" Cup with Brazil again.

SOUTH AMERICAN REPORT from ERIC WEIL

BRAZIL JUMP STRAIGHT BACK INTO THE FIRE



SOUTH American national teams jumped almost straight from the frying pan into the fire, so to speak when they had to start preparing for the World Cup qualifying group games vitually as soon as the South American Championship in Brazil ended.

The scheduling was done on purpose as in this way national teams would have a better chance of getting their many foreign-based players back — although only the stronger countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile were really affected — and domestic championships could be scheduled more easily with one long break instead of several.

As mentioned in last month's World Soccer, little came of the expected renovation in South American soccer with the same old favourties, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay qualifying for the final round of the South American Championship in spite of their not playing up to the stand and expected of them.

Difficulty

This seemed to indicate that in the World-Cup qualifying games Uruguay would win group one against Peru and Bolivia, Brazil would take group three against Chile and Venezuela and Paraguay would come out top in group two with some difficulty against Colombia and Ecuador as the former played so much worse than expected of them in the South American event that they could not be so poor again and Ecuador surprised for a time and could do it again.

The South American Championship showed many outstanding players such as Venezuela's Carlos Maldonado, Brazil's Bebeto and Romario, Argentina's Claudio Caniggia, Paraguay's Gustavo Neffa, Uruguay's Ruben Sosa, Colombia's Carlos Valderrama, Ecuador's Holger Quinonez and Chile's Jaime Ramirez.

But the up and down performances of several teams, the lack of fitness shown by some players and the fact that most of the squads were only definitely fixed shortly before the tournament resulted in the overall quality not being as good as it could have been. There were nevertheless some good games with good technique and enthusiasm for their team colours shown by the players, but individual performances were more prominent than team work.

Romario . . . outstanding

Better organisation in almost every phase — transport, media arrangements, etc — will however be necessary for the next event, specially during preliminary group play. The venue is likely to be chosen early next year with most South American countries interested in acting as hosts.

Most countries made some changes for the World Cup qualifying games and another factor is also likely to make a difference to performances apart from half the games being played by each team in front of its own supporters at home.

The South American Championship saw 26 matches packed into two weeks during which those countries which reached the final round had to play seven matches. Most South American players are not used to playing so many games in such a short period — generally they play one match a week — but World Cup games are being played at weekly intervals.

Argentina, as world champions, were naturally considered among the favourites to win the South American title, but a lot of their play was frustrating. Prominent was their poor show in attack — only two goals in seven games scored by their only prominent forward, Caniggia — and in midfield where their kingpin, Diego Maradona, was only a shadow of his usual self.

Promised

Maradona was not the only one of numerous European-based players who did not live up to expectations after a tiring season and the team only got together just before their first match, goalkeeper Pumpido even arriving later to give some good performances. It all showed how much Argentina really relied on Maradona to deliver the goods while coach Carlos Bilardo's new European strategy which he promised he would use apparently did not bring the desired results. As champions, Argentina have their place in the World Cup finals assured, so more about them later.

Brazil's coach, Sebastiai Lazaroni's job continuance was going to come under serious consideration by the Brazilian Sports Confederation, but after winning the South American title all that was forgotten and the much-criticised Lazaroni was suddenly a hero.

Brazil finished the South American Championship much better than they started it and were expected to continue in their winning vein. Lazaroni added Mozer, not previously released by Marseille, Jorginho (Flamengo) and goalkeeper Edvaldo to the title winning squad, but a rather unimportant match against Japan, which the Brazilians treated as a training match and won 4-0, left two important players — Romario and Tita — injured and they were not going to be available for the start of the World Cup qualifying campaign.

Lazaroni also experimented with three proper forwards and although this was not an unqualified success against Japan he dediced to continue it.

Chile, Brazil's main rival were going to be stronger in World Cup games than in the South American Championship when some of their foreign-based stars were not released by their clubs. Now they had leading scorer Aravena back from Mexico and were also hoping to line up Zamorano, Rubio, Basay, and Yanez.

Venezuela made eight changes in their squad for their group 3 World Cup games, but taking into account the general quality of their domestic soccer it is unlikely to improve them. It can only be said for them as mentioned before, that they are more competetive than at any time since they began playing in the World Cup in 1965. In this time they have only won once, drawn three and lost 20 of their games.

Paraguay started the South American championship well, but deteriorated towards the end showing tiredness and defects, specially in defence and midfield. This could have been a case of playing too many matches (for them) in two short a time which will not be the case in World Cup qualifying games. (They were also strengthened by two key players whose European clubs would not release them for the South American Championship — midfield Julio Romero "Romerito" and forward Roberto Cabanas although two — goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert and Jorge Nunez are absent because they wanted too much money.

In 17-year-old Gustavo Neffa, however, they have one of the outstanding forwards of the future who has already made a name for himself.

Colombia (group two) fell down in attack and were too individual in the South American Championship. Coach Francisco Maturana made several changes to fix the former, specially by bringin in striker Uzurriaga, a leading scorer in this year's Libertadores Cup with Nacional who already have most players in the national team.

Ecuador were a revelation in the South American Championship when they beat Uruguay and drew with Argentina in their first two games but then fell away badly against weaker rivals. Tiredness? Lack of fitness? As mentioned, it will not be such a factor in World Cup qualifying games. At the very least, they must today have more confidence in themselves. (They also showed good team work under their Yugoslav coach, Dusan Draskovic and looked stronger than ever, which may however not be enough this time to get them to the World Cup finals for the first time.

Changes

Uruguay (group one), who just lost to Brazil in the South American final, could be faulted for lack of fitness and connection between defence and attack. Coach Oscar Tabarez could fix both with a litte time to leave his team the easiest passage to the finals.

Bolivia made eight changes in their squad for the World Cup, but this was unlikely to improve their poor South American Championship performances in which they failed to score a goal. They made a poor start to their preparations when clubs in La Paz would not lend their stadiums for training. The excuse was that renovations were being carried out to stadiums, but behind this was probably the truth that clubs were little inclined to give up players to the national team for what they believed to be a lost cause.

● THE second edition of the South American Super Cup, for previous Libertadores Cup winners, is due to start on October 4 with first round, first legs. The second legs are scheduled for October 11 and the draw is as follows (with first leg hosts mentioned first):

Santos (Brazil) v Independiente (Argentina), Nacional (Uruguay) v Nacional (Colombia), River Plate (Argentina) v Gremio (Brazil, Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) v Penarol (Uruguay), Flamengo (Brazil) v Argentinos Juniors (Argentina), Olimpia (Paraguay) v Cruzeiro (Brazil).

Cup holders Racing (Avellaneda) have a bye into the second round together with Boca Juniors and the two Argentina clubs face each other in the second round. The eventual winners hope to face European Cup-winners' Cup holders Barcelona.

MEN IN THE NEWS

President Menem makes a winning debut . . .

ARGENTINE president, Carlos Menem, 59 and a great soccer fan (of River Plate), juggles with the ball before realising every boy's dream by captaining the Argentine national team in a charity match against an All-Star XI in the packed Velez Sarsfield stadium (55,000) in Buenos Aires. His team won 1-0 with Diego Maradona scoring the goal.

Menem, remarkably fit at 59 as he enjoys playing soccer regulary, replaced No.5 Batista, in the Argentine team which had just returned from the South American Championship.

Menem captained the team and played throughout the whole match, showing some good passing, also back heeling, although he rarely got into close tackles.

Injury

Maradona scored the only goal halfway through the second half with a well-taken free-kick which found former World Cup goalkeeper Fillol in the wrong place.

Talking of Maradona, former Argentine FA doctor, Eduardo Ciarrochi continues to warn the player publicly that he has a spinal injury which could put him out of next year's World Cup if it is not treated properly and could also end his career at any moment. He says that three Italian docts who have examined Maradona lately, agree with his opinion.

Sergio Gil, 19, one of Brazil's leading junior internationals who played in the recent Junion World Cup in Saudi Arabia, was killed in a car crash on his way to Porto Alegre to join Internacional on a year's loan.

Transfers, arranged mostly through agents and which then often do not go through, included: Sergio Batista, Argentine international midfielder, from River Plate (Argentina) to Udinese (Italy) for 500,000 dollars . . . Roberto Sensini, Argentine international defender, from Newell's Old Boys (Argentina) to Udinese or Genoa (Italy) for 400,000 dollars . . . Gustavo Moriconi, Argentine goalkeeper, from Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata (Argentina) on free transfer to Monterrey (Mexico) . . . Nestor Lorenzo, Argentine international defender, from Argentinos Juniors to Bari (Italy) for 350,000 dollars . . . Jose Perdomo, Uruguayan international midfielder (24), from Penarol (Uruguay) to Genoa (Italy) for 600,000 dollars . . . Carlos Aguilera, Uruguayan internaational striker (24), from Penarol (Urugay) to Genoa (Italy) for 500,000 dollars . . . Nestor Craviotto, Argentine defender (25),from Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) to Borussia Dortmund (West Germany) for 250,000 dollars . . . Nestor Gorosito, Argentine international forward, whose transfer was bought from San Lorenzo (Argentina) by an agent for an Italian club, looked likely to end up with Tyrol (Austria) . . . Oscar Garre, former Argentine international defender, will continue his career in Israel, according to the player who did not name a club.

Argentine clubs trapped by high inflation

SOUTH AMERICA EXTRA FROM ERIC WEIL

FINANCIAL problems of Argentine soccer have increased due to terrible inflation — over 500 per cent between April and July — and a dollar exchange rate which has even outstripped inflation. The dollar cost 12 australes when the 1988/89 season started in August last year and now costs 650.

Why should this be a special source of worry to soccer? Because to cover infolation players contractrs have been transacted in dolars for years and now clubs find themselves completely unable to pay their players.

Negotiations with players — many of whom are owed several months salaries and are not going to collect at the dollar rate — have been difficult. At one time a special soccer dollar rate was being talked about and clubs are furiously trying to sell players to foreign clubs at give-away prices which is, however, the only way they can lay their hands on dollars.

Danger

It's the close season at the moment and things may get really difficutl as the start of the new season approaches and players not lucky enough to to to clubs abroad will have to be satisfied with small wages at home.

The sharp increase in petrol and travelling expenses has also put the National B Division in danger as clubs due to take part have said they cannot afford to travel. Only a subsidy from somewhere will save this championship.

The only local activity at the momentis a long drawn-out double knock-out tournament between National A Division clubs of which the winner will accompany champions Independiente into next year's Libertadores Cup.

Classic rivals Boca Juniors and River Plate were fighting out the loses section final — they had drawn both legs of their tie 0-0 in poor games and were due to play off at press-time and the winner will then face San Lorenzo, who had won the winners section, for a cup place.

COLOMBIA: Santa Fe, of Bogota, won the Copa Colombia, the second stage of the Colombian professional championship by beating Union Magdalena 2-1 in the second leg of the final after drawing 0-0 in the first. At the same time losing semi-finalists Atletico Junior of Barranquilla and America of Cali played for third place with the former winning by taking the first leg 3-1 and losing the second 3-2.

Thus winners Santa Fe gained 0.5 of a bonus point to take into the end-of-season final round, Union Magdalenz 0.375, Junion 0.25 and America 0.125. Leading scorer in this stage was Valencia (Independiente Medellin) with 10 goals followed by Sinisterra (Union Magdalena) and Calero (Junion) 8.

At press time the third stage had begun — following a three-week break while the South American Championship was being played in Brazil — and Union Magdalena gained quick revenge for their Copa Colombia final defeat by beating Santa Fe 1-0 . . . but it was a somewhat hollow victory. Santa Fe players were on strike over salary disagreements with club officials and a reserve team lined up.

BRAZIL: Sao Paulo FC won the Sao Paulo State title for the fifth time by beating Sao Jose in the finals, winning the first leg 1-0 and drawing the second 0-0 . . . after extra time.

Sao Jose, who reached the final for the first time, had won more points during the championship and therefore had the advantage of being able to win the title even if both legs had been drawn. Even with Sao Paulo winning one match and drawing the other Sao Jose had a further chance according to tournament rules of winning the trophy in extra time, but no more goals were scored.

In the semi-finals, Salo Paulo had eliminated Bragantino 3-0 on aggregate (1-0 and 2-0) while Sao Jose knocked out popular Corinthians in extra time. Each team had won one leg 1-0, but Sao Jose scored another goal in extra time after the second leg.

ECUADOR: Aucas and Filanbanco, both on goal difference, top the two groups of the second stage of the Ecuadorian first division from which the group winners will join previously qualified Nacional (1st stage winners), Barcelona, Emelec and Deportivo Quito in the end of season final round.

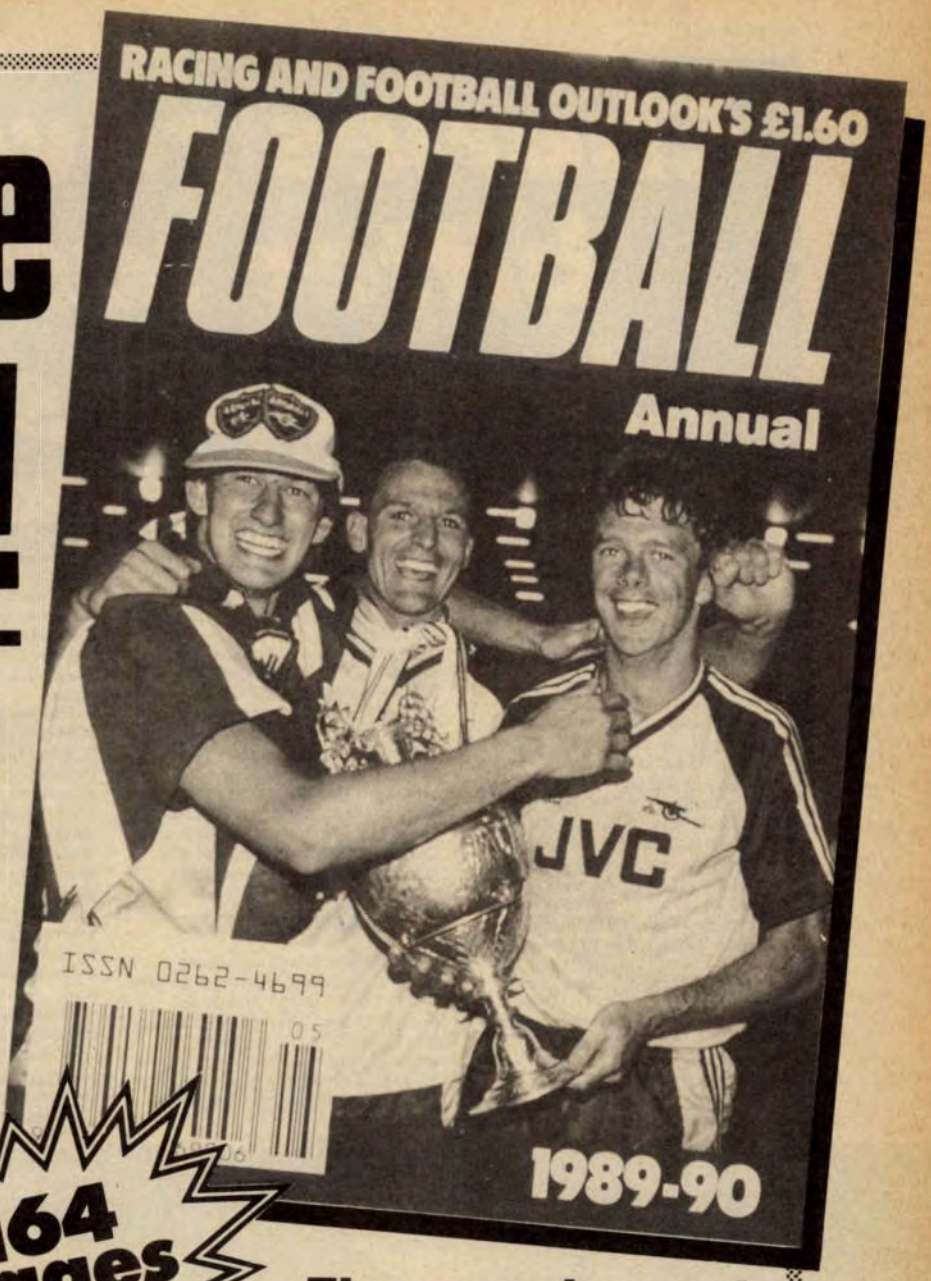
CHILE: Colo Colo, of Santiago, Chile's most popular club, won the season's first title by beating Universidad Catolica 1-0 in the final of the Digeder Cup pre-season tournament in which the first and second division clubs took part. Argentine forward Dawroski scored the only goal after 15 minutes.

At press time 16 first division clubs were playing the "Copa de Invierno" (Winter Cup) tourament initially divided into four groups. The official first division championship was due to start on August 26.

PERU: The "Placido Galindo" national championship was being played with clubs divided into metropolitan, northern, central and southern sections and penalties being used for the first time to decide draws. Union Huaral led the metropolitan section by two points over Universitario.

DANIEL PASSARELLA . . . veteran Argentine captain who has just announced his retirement.

Get the facts!



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Charles row leaves bitter taste for champions Brazil

From BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio

CBF president Ricardo Teixeira was too busy wiping the egg off his face to celebrate Brazil's win in the Copa America.

Teixeira, son-in-law of Fifa president Joao Havelange, suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of manager Sebastiao Lazaroni when he attempted to interfere in the naming of the Brazilian squad for the competition.

Teixeira had wanted a Salvador-based player in the squad as Brazil were to play their first three games in that city. As Bahia centre-forward Charles was the only such player to be even considered by the manager, Teixeira gave the order that Charles was to be included.

But Lazaroni, to his eternal credit, decided that he was the manager, that the squad was to be picked on merit and that there was no room for Charles. "I won't accept pressures. If I accepted them, I wouldn't be able to look the other players in the eye," Lazaroni told reporters.

The whole story had started after Brazil had returned from their sorry escapade in Europe — a fiasco for which the CBF were largely responsible — in which the unfortunate Charles had taken part.

The rules for the Copa America clearly stated that each country could inscribe 20 players for the competition. Despite this, Teixeira told Lazaroni to call up 24 players, including Charles, believing that with Argtentina's help he could get the organisers to fiddle with the rules.

Even with 24 players, Lazaroni was reluctant to include the Bahia player but he gave in to Teixeira's persuasion. Teixeira, however, had badly miscalculated. Changing the rules halfway through the competition is normal practice in Brazil, but the organisers of the Copa America decided not to adopt it and kept the 20 players rule. With four players to cut, Lazaroni decided that enough was enough and Charles had to go.

Oranges

In doing so Lazaroni infuriated Teixeira, the local press and public and put his job on the line. The locals decided to boycott the competition and only 9,000 turned up to see the opening game against Venezuela, 8,000 to see the game against Peru and 9,000 to see the game against Colombia.

Those who did come booed and threw oranges at the Brazilian team, manager and officials, jeered the national anthem and applauded when Venezuela scored their consolation goal.

The orange sellers did a roaring trade and venders on the terraces shouted "buy your oranges now to throw at Lazaroni." But the crowd hostility, together with the dreadful Fonte Nova pitch, badly affected the players and Brazil managed only 0-0 draws with Peru and Colombia. They were lucky to avoid defeat against the latter.

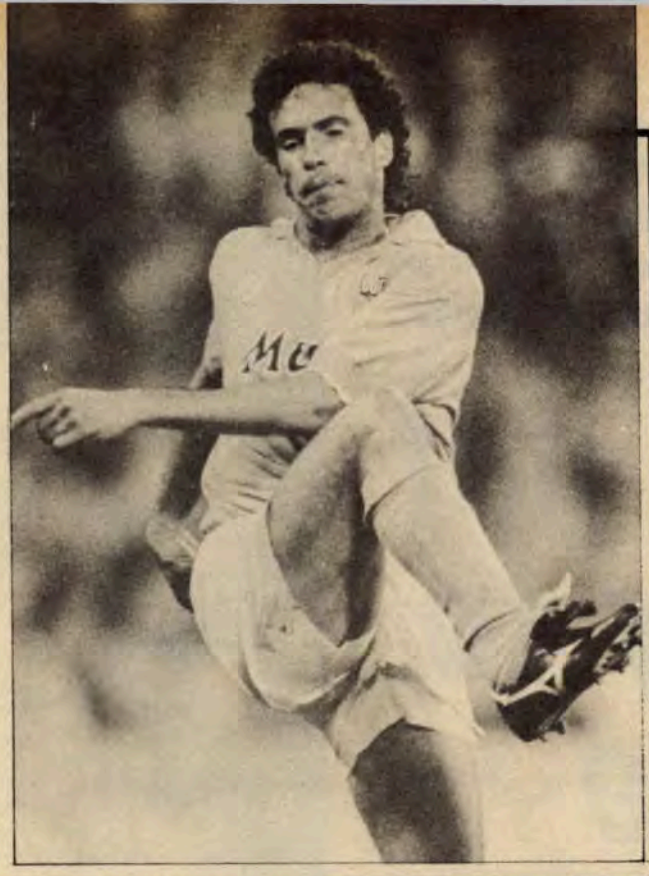
Meanwhile rumours were rife about the manager's future and they were fuelled by the refusal of the CBF to make any definite announcement one way or the other. Comments such as "the only thing I can say now is that Lazaroni is manager of the team" from CBF vice-president Eurico Miranda did nothing to stop the speculation. Teixeira also contributed by saying "Nothing to declare" after the Colombia game.

Teixeira must have a problem with his memory because on taking over the CBF presidency in February he had told everyone that Lazaroni would be the manager until 1990 "even if Brazil don't win the Copa America." He had repeated the declaration after the 4-0 defeat by Denmark.

What had really annoyed Teixeira was not the results on the pitch but Lazaroni's defiance in cutting Charles — an act that was made doubly worse by the fact that Teixeira had previously assured the President of Bahia that Charles would be present and worse still by the fact that Lazaroni had won.

Because even though Lazaroni had disobeyed Teixeira, there was very little that the president could have done about it. After all, it is obvious to any reasonable person that a football team

Lazaroni — saved his job with victory in the South American Championships



Above: Striker Charles was at the centre of the controversy. Above right: Injury victim Careca. Right: Carlos Alberto Silva

is picked on the ability of the players and not on the basis of political wheeling and dealing. Lazaroni was therefore regarded as being in the right and had the support of players and public behind him.

Whatever you think of Lazaroni's team selection and tactics — and he has more than his fair share of critics on these matters — it was clear that in this respect he had behaved correctly and even courageously and the players united behind him.

As Lazaroni himself said: "You could decide not to contract Lazaroni because he is stupid and incompetent. But never for not being serious, honest and having standards."

Teixeira's only chance to fire the manager would have been after the draw with Colombia when public opinion turned against Lazaroni because of the team's performance. But, after a long conversation with Miranda, he decided to keep the manager until the end of the competition.

From then on Lazaroni's position kept on strengthening. Once the team left the hostile climate and unplayable pitch of Salvador, they beat Paraguay to qualify for the second round, and then Argentina (2-0), Paraguay (3-0) and Uruguay (1-0) to win the title. But was Teixeira happy? Definately not.

Even after the second victory over Paraguay, which left Brazil two points from the title, it was obvious that Teixeira was still smarting from his defeat and the 90,000 dollars loss the CBF had suffered for each game in Salvador because of the missing supporters. Asked what he thought of the second performance against Paraguay, Teixeira replied: "You can't argue with figures." Asked if Lazaroni would stay, he went red in the face, became visibly irritated and said: "I'm not talking about this."

The real victim of the whole saga had been Charles himself. A shy 21-year-old who earns a pittance and wants to play with a European club, he was deeply embarrassed at being in the middle of the affair and was even worried that his future hopes of playing for the national team would be wiped up. Fortunately, he was eventually invited to stay with the squad for the final stages of the cup in Rio — though not as one of the 20 listed for the competition.

The Bahians, meanwhile, were not totally unjustified in feeling that there is discrimination against their region. Bahia (the club shares the same name as the state) are, after all, Brazilian champions. But during last year's competition the team was only featured on television in the semi-final and final and barely got a mention in the press of Rio and Sao Paulo. Yet they had the best attendance figures in the competition and, along with Vasco, clearly the best team.

The club Bahia also suffers greatly from spending six months of the year playing in the Bahia state championship — a competition in which only one other team has a remote chance of challenging them. Things got so bad this year that at one stage the club attempted to abandon the competition and go on a more lucratice excursion abroad.

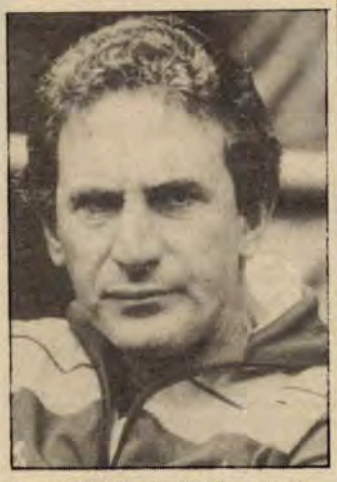
Directors

Brazil's players — including the Bahian-born Bebeto — claimed that the locals had over-reacted and this was certainly true of Raimundo Varela, a presenter of the local TV Itapoa.

Varela, during his programme, called on the Federal Police to "arrest the thieves who direct Brazilian football" and tore up tickets for the Brazil-Venezuela game which had been sent to him by fans who had decided not to go.

But the most sorry aspect was the behaviour of certain directors starting with Miranda, the one who runs onto the pitch to protest about the referee. He came out with comments unacceptable from someone in his position, such as "in Bahia there are only Indians with no culture." His description of Varela as "mental weakling" was not what you'd expect the CBF's director of football to say either.

First prize for the most blatant publicity stunt goes to Paulo Maracaja, the president of Bahia FC, who, on



hearing that Charles had been axed, stormed into Brazil's hotel and led the bewildered player away.

Second prize goes to Eduardo Jose Farah, president of the Sao Paulo state federation, who started the rumours that Lazaroni would be sacked after the Copa America and replaced by Carlos Alberto Silva.

If Farah was after publicity, he got it. But in mentioning him here it is worth pointing out that his federation has made a pig's ear of the Sao Paulo state championship, the most important regional competition in the country. Thanks to the illogical and mixed-up rules this year's competition was won not by Palmeiras, the best team, but by Sao Paulo FC (another club that shares the same name as the state) whose campaign was far inferior.

Palmeiras managed to go 23 games unbeaten but were unlucky enough to lose their first match in the quarter-final stages and be eliminated immediately. Sao Paulo, on the other hand, were thoroughly mediocre early on but scraped through the first stages and happened to put a few reasonable, but not spectacular, results together in the latter stages.

Is it any coincidence that not one team from Brazil's most populous and prosperous state reached the last eight of the most recent Brazilian championship — or that not a single Sao Paulo- based player was in Lazaroni's squad at the time of writing?

THE CRISIS day by day

THE following is the sequence of events that led to the Charles affair:

June 25: Lazaroni names a 24-man squad for the Copa America. Charles is not in the squad.

June 27: Careca pulls out of the squad with a thigh injury. Lazaroni calls up Charles on the orders of Teixeira, who had early promised Bahia president Paulo Maracaja that Charles would be included. Only 20 players can be inscribed for the Copa America but Teixeira is confident he can get the limit increased to 24.

June 28: Bahia FC president Paulo Maracaja declares that "the calling up of Charles was a result of the pressure of the Bahians, who united in a just cause."

June 30: The organisers of the Copa America refuse to increase the limit to 24 and Lazaroni cuts Charles from the squad. Maracaja invades Brazil's hotel and takes the player away, almost by force. The CBF's vice-president (or director) of football Eurico Miranda says that he tried to convince Lazaroni not to drop Charles.

July 1: Brazil beat Venezuela 3-1. The game is boycotted by the local public — only 9,000 people turn up — and those who do come support the Venezuelans. Brazil are booed and the national anthem is jeered.

July 2: The CBF ban Charles from playing for his club, saying that he had not been officially released from the squad, even though he was not among the 20 for the Copa America.

July 3: Lazaroni realises that he no longer has Teixeira's backing. "If I want to continue in the job I will have to win the Copa America. It wasn't like that before. Now it's changed," he says. Brazil draw 0-0 with Peru and are again booed by the locals.

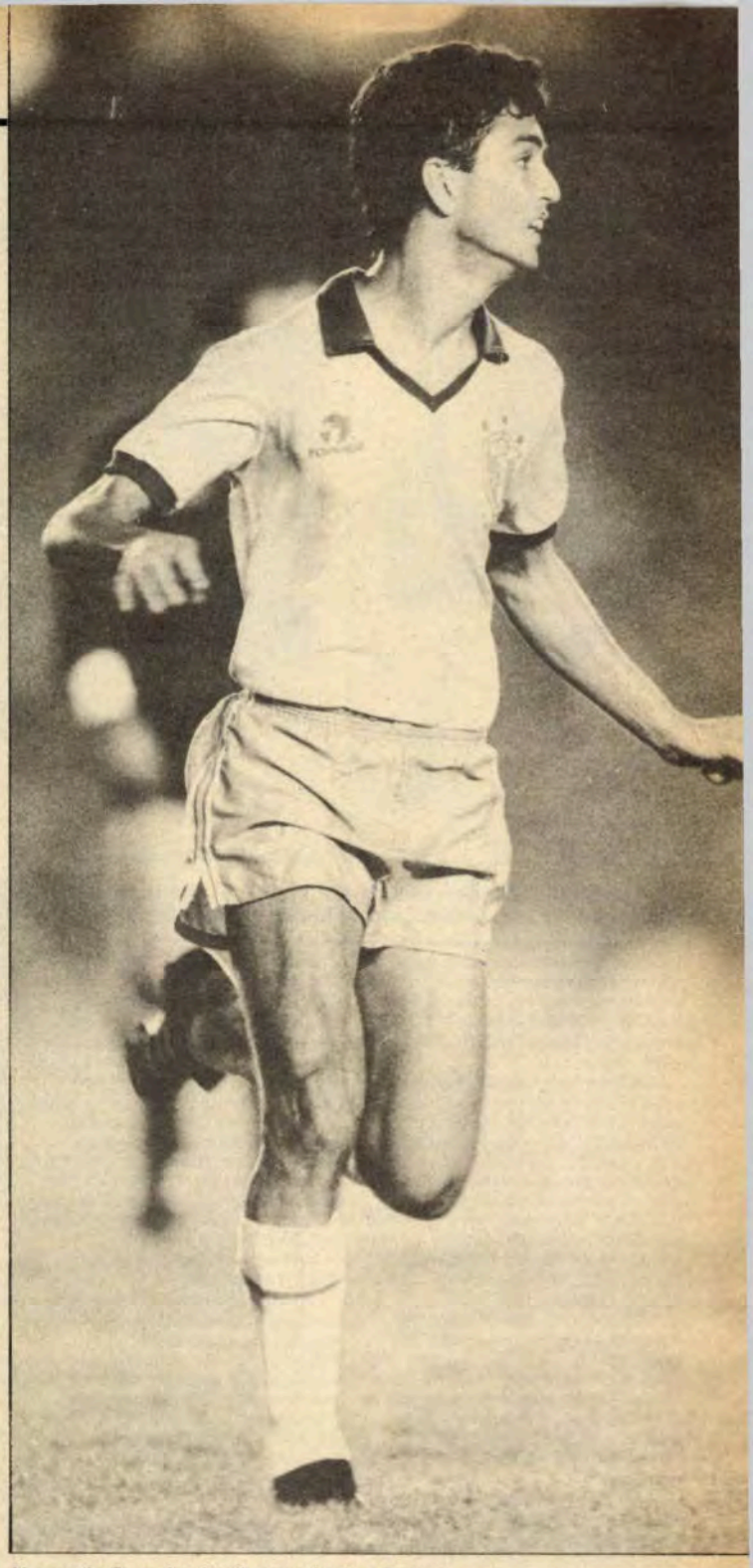
July 5: Rumours start that Lazaroni is about to be sacked. Miranda tells reporters that "Lazaroni is the manager now. But it's clear that his work will be assessed. At the right moment." The CBF come to an agreement with Maracaja — he allows Charles to rejoin the squad and the CBF allow him to play for his club during the Copa America period.

July 7: Eduardo Jose Farah, president of the Sao Paulo state football federation arrives in Salvador to declare that Lazaroni will go after the competition and be replaced by former Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Silva, currently manager of Sao Paulo FC. Teixeira will not confirm or deny the news. "Nothing to declare" is his comment. Miranda says there will be a meeting to evaluate Lazaroni's performance after the competition. Meanwhile, Brazil draw 0-0 with Colombia.

July 8: A report in the Globo newspaper says that the CBF are planning to replace Lazaroni with Botafogo manager Valdir Espinoza. After a long conversation Miranda and Teixeira decide that Lazaroni will stay. Teixeira makes the confusing announcement that "Lazaroni is our manager for 1990. But this could change one month from now, two months or three months." Brazil leave Salvador for Recife.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD reports from Rio on the complexities of Brazil's national championship

Fans get ready to figure it out



Vasco da Gama's shock new signing Bebeto

Benifca bound Aldair

BRAZIL'S national championship starts this month with a format that promises to keep the mathematicians busy and threatens to produce an injustice.

The championship, known as the Copa Uniao, will be disputed by 22 teams. But it will not be played on a straightforward league basis and it will be completed in just over three months.

The teams have been divided into two groups of eleven. In round one, each team will play once against every other team in their own group. At the end of this the top eight teams in each group will proceed to round two.

In this stage of the competition each team will play once against every team in the other group and the points will be added on to the total obtained in the first round. The winners of group A will then meet the winners of group B in a final played over two legs and decided on a points, rather than aggregate score, basis.

Needless to say, the points total from rounds one and two will not be carried over to the final and here lies the first potential injustice — the championship could be won by the team that had a poorer overall record throughout the first two rounds.

The finalist with the better overall record will be given a bonus point at the start of the final and be allowed to choose the venue for the first game — but these advantages could be quickly wiped out.

In addition, it is quite possible that one group could be stronger than the other and the winners of the weaker group could be a team that is well down the overall standings.

A similar system has been used in the Copa Uniao in the last two years and on both occasions the best teams were denied the title. In 1987, Atletico Mineiro were clearly the best side and won rounds one and two of the competition. But when it cam to the semi-final stage of the competition, everyone started from scratch again, Atletico missed a series of chances, conceded a late goal and all the previous work was thrown out the window. The same thing happened with Vasco last year.

The CBF has given an assurance that next year the competition will be on the conventional league basis, with the teams playing each other once instead of twice. The trouble is they said the same thing about this year's competition.

In fairness to Ricardo Teixeira, the formula was approved by the clubs at a meeting in April. And there are some improvements on the last year's competition.

The most important of these is the fixture list, announced five months in advance. It may not sound like much, but in Brazil's it is quite a development. In the last two years the CBF would only announce the fixtures one week in advance.

Meanwhile, the referees will be instructed to punish violence and time-wasting appropriately, and will have to provide detailed reports on incidents such as pitch invasions, delayed starts to matches and unauthorised people on the pitch.

Appointing the favourites for the competition is almost impossible because players and managers come and go so quickly in Brazil, while the top players are continually being sold abroad.

Reigning champions Bahia, for example, have lost both Evaristo de

Santos' Socrates

Macedo, the manager, and Bobo, their top player, from last year's campaign. In addition, centre-forward Charles, who has played for Brazil this year, looked like being sold at the time of writing. Nevertheless, Bahia, with their fanatical supporters, should be among the top teams once again.

Also among the favourites are Atletico Mineiro from Belo Horizonte and the two Porto Alegre clubs, Internacional and Gremio. Internacional have been runners-up in the last two years, although they too have lost their manager, Abel, from last year as well as centre-forward Nilson, the top-scorer in the 1988 competition with 15 goals.

As far as the Sao Paulo clubs are concerned one thing is certain — they can't possibly do any worse than last year, when not one team from the state managed to reach the last eight. This time the "Paulistas" best hopes probably rest with Palmeiras, who recently enjoyed a 23-match unbeaten run in the state championship (though they still failed to win it).

Sao Paulo FC, who now have Bobo in their line-up and are managed by former national team manager Carlos Alberto Silva, and Corinthians could also be among the favourites. On the other hand famous Santos are a shadow of their former selves. Despite having Socrates in the side, the club is in financial difficulties and does not seem likely to mount a serious challenge. Last year they were nearly relegated.

Of the Rio clubs, maybe the best bet is Botafogo. At the time of writing it seemed that the club would be able to keep intact the side that recently won the state championship without losing a game and ended a run of 21 years without a title.

Key defender Mauro Galvao, who became Brazil's sweeper during the Copa America, signed a six-month contract after a transfer to Italian club Udinese fell through, while it also looked like Josimar and manager Valdir Espinoza would be staying.

Fluminense are still trying to rebuild their team after selling Washington, Jandir and World Cup players Edinho and Romero. Flamengo, amanged by Tele Santana, looked to be in a spot of trouble, with the likely loss of their three international players.

Centre-back Aldair had been sold to Benfica, right-back Jorginho had been sold to Bayer Leverkusen and forward Bebeto, their top-scorer in the last four seasons, is being controversially sold to arch-rivals Vasco.

Vasco themselves could be one of the favourites or could be a big let-down. Manager Sergio Cosme will probably not last another couple of defeats, as he only just held onto his job after the team failed to retain the state title this year. Midfield player Geovani has been sold to Bologna of Italy. On the other hand, the club has full-back Mazinho, one of the best players in the Copa America, Bismark, star of the World Youth Cup in Saudi Arabia, and Bebeto.

Among the dark horses are Coritiba, who are managed by Zico's brother Edu, and Sport of Recife.

Relegation will be decided by the six teams who do not qualify for the second round.

Botafogo's key defender Galvao

COPA UNIAO FIRST ROUND FIXTURES

Group A:
Vitoria (Bahia)
Guarani (SP)
Internacional Limeira (SP)
Atletico Paranaense (Parana)
Internacional (RS)
Flamengo (RJ)
Corinthians (SP)
Botafogo (RJ)
Sao Paulo (SP)
Nautico (Pernambuco)
Atletico Mineiro (Minas Gerais)

Group B:
Sport Recife (Pernambuco)
Goias (Goias)
Vasco (RJ)
Portuguesa (SP)
Gremio (RS)
Palmeiras (SP)
Fluminense (RJ)
Bahia (Bahia)
Santos (SP)
Coritiba (Parana)
Cruzeiro (Minas Gerais)

State in brackets:
SP — Sao Paulo RJ — Rio de Janeiro RS — Grande do Sul

FIRST ROUND

Sept 7 — Group A:
Guarani (SP) — Vitoria (BA)
Flamengo (RJ) — Atletico (MG)
Botafogo (RJ) — Internacional (RS)
Atletico (PR) — Sao Paulo (SP)
Corinthians (SP) — Internacional (SP)

Group B:
Sport Recife (PE) — Goias (GO)
Bahia (BA) — Fluminense (RJ)
Cruzeiro (MG) — Vasco da Gama (RJ)
Gremio (RS) — Coritiba (PR)
Palmeiras (SP) — Santos (SP)

Sept 10 — Group A:
Sao Paulo (SP) — Vitoria (BA)
Corinthians (SP) — Guarani (SP)
Internacional (SP) — Nautico (PE)
Atletico (PR) — Flamengo (RJ)
Internacional (RS) — Atletico (MG)

Group B:
Bahia (BA) — Gremio (RS)
Goias (GO) — Portuguesa (SP)
Vasco da Gama (RJ) — Coritiba (PR)
Fluminense (RJ) — Santos (SP)
Sport Recife (PE) — Palmeiras (SP)

Sept 17 — Group A:
Vitoria (BA) — Internacional (RS)
Guarani (SP) — Internacional (SP)
Flamengo (RJ) — Corinthians (SP)
Nautico (PE) — Sao Paulo (SP)
Botafogo (RJ) — Atletico (PR)

Group B:
Cruzeiro (MG) — Bahia (BA)
Santos (SP) — Vasco da Gama (RJ)
Portuguesa (SP) — Fluminense (RJ)
Palmeiras (SP) — Goias (GO)
Gremio (RS) — Sport Recife (PE)

Sept 20 — Group A:
Nautico (PE) — Corinthians (SP)
Vitoria (BA) — Internacional (SP)
Atletico (MG) — Sao Paulo (SP)
Flamengo (RJ) — Botafogo (RJ)
Guarani (SP) — Atletico (PR)

Group B:
Palmeiras (SP) — Bahia (BA)
Portuguesa (SP) — Sport Recife (PE)
Santos (SP) — Goias (GO)
Coritiba (PR) — Fluminense (RJ)
Gremio (RS) — Cruzeiro (MG)

Sept 24 — Group A:
Nautico (PE) — Guarani (SP)
Vitoria (BA) — Flamengo (RJ)
Sao Paulo (SP) — Corinthians (SP)
Atletico (MG) — Botafogo (RJ)
Internacional (RS) — Atletico (PR)

Group B:
Vasco da Gama (RJ) — Bahia (BA)
Fluminense (RJ) — Sport Recife (PE)
Coritiba (PR) — Cruzeiro (MG)
Portuguesa (SP) — Palmeiras (SP)
Santos (SP) — Gremio (RS)

Oct 1 — Group A:
Botafogo (RJ) — Guarani (SP)
Sao Paulo (SP) — Internacional (RS)
Corinthians (SP) — Vitoria (BA)
Internacional (SP) — Atletico (MG)
Atletico (PR) — Nautico (PE)

Group B:
Sport Recife (PE) — Santos (SP)
Bahia (BA) — Portuguesa (SP)
Goias (GO) — Coritiba (PR)
Cruzeiro (MG) — Palmeiras (SP)
Fluminense (RJ) — Vasco da Gama (RJ)

Oct 4 — Group A:
Nautico (PE) — Botafogo (RJ)
Vitoria (BA) — Atletico (PR)
Atletico (MG) — Corinthians (SP)
Guarani (SP) — Flamengo (RJ)
Internacional (RS) — Internacional (SP)

Group B:
Vasco da Gama (RJ) — Goias (GO)
Portuguesa (SP) — Cruzeiro (MG)
Santos (SP) — Bahia (BA)
Palmeiras (SP) — Gremio (RS)
Coritiba (PR) — Sport Recife (PE)

Oct 8 — Group A:
Vitoria (BA) — Nautico (PE)
Atletico (MG) — Guarani (SP)
Internacional (SP) — Atletico (PR)
Sao Paulo (SP) — Botafogo (RJ)
Internacional (RS) — Flamengo (RJ)

Group B:
Goias (GO) — Bahia (BA)
Vasco da Gama (RJ) — Gremio (RS)
Fluminense (RJ) — Cruzeiro (MG)
Coritiba (PR) — Palmeiras (SP)
Santos (SP) — Portuguesa (SP)

Oct 15 — Group A:
Flamengo (RJ) — Nautico (PE)
Botafogo (RJ) — Vitoria (BA)
Atletico (PR) — Atletico (MG)
Corinthians (SP) — Internacional (RS)
Internacional (SP) — Sao Paulo (SP)

Group B:
Sport Recife (PE) — Vasco da Gama (PE)
Bahia (BA) — Coritiba (PR)
Goias (GO) — Fluminense (RJ)
Cruzeiro (MG) — Santos (SP)
Gremio (RS) — Portuguesa (SP)

Oct 18 — Group A:
Nautico (PE) — Atletico (MG)
Flamengo (RJ) — Sao Paulo (SP)
Botafogo (RJ) — Internacional (SP)
Atletico (PR) — Corinthians (SP)
Guarani (SP) — Internacional (RS)

Group B:
Bahia (BA) — Sport Recife (PE)
Portuguesa (SP) — Coritiba (PR)
Gremio (RS) — Fluminense (RJ)
Palmeiras (SP) — Vasco da Gama (RJ)
Cruzeiro (MG) — Goias (GO)

Oct 22 — Group A:
Atletico (MG) — Vitoria (BA)
Corinthians (SP) — Botafogo (RJ)
Internacional (RS) — Nautico (PE)
Sao Paulo (SP) — Guarani (SP)
Internacional (SP) — Flamengo (RJ)

Group B:
Goias (GO) — Gremio (RS)
Vasco da Gama (RJ) — Portuguesa
Fluminense (RJ) — Palmeiras (SP)
Coritiba (PR) — Santos (SP)
Sport Recife (PE) — Cruzeiro (MG)

LETTERS

SIR — Alas, several readers beat me to put pen to paper in protest at the decision to scrap the free pen pals column in Shop Window. However, if all we readers do not air our views on this astonishing decision World Soccer might feel justified, wrongly, in thinking it has done the correct thing.

As an avid reader of World Soccer for many years, Pen Pals Swaps was my favourite section. Indeed, I have used it on numerous occasions and it is thanks to this unique column that I have gained several friends from various parts of the Soviet Union which resulted in visits to the USSR. I always took with me many, many copies of your magazine and I do not have to remind you of whch page/column foreigners are eager to see!

It provided them with a large selection of western friends and collectors unavailable in eastern European football magazines.

Now I am not complaining about the 20p per word, but how do east Europeans pay for this service. Their currency is not allowed to leave their country? Why not scrap the back page picture and, in its place, revive the much welcomed/needed pens-pals-swaps?

World Soccer has disappointed many genuine readers and ended many potential future friendships which result from that column. Come on World Soccer — think again!

— P. KEATING, Hillbrow, Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey.

SIR — I am writing in response to two letters which appeared in your August issue. They were two more examples of people running down English football and I just could not allow such arrogant nonsense to pass unchallenged.

One reader, from Dublin, wrote: "Nobody should have any reason to be surprised when the (England) national team is knocked out early — as usual — in the next World Cup."

Excuse me. Is my memory failing me or did England not reach the quarter-finals of the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, only to be eliminated by an outrageous piece of cheating combined with an abysmal refereeing decision?

And, in the previous World Cup finals in Spain in 1982, did England not pass through the first stage with a 100 per cent record and then just fail to get through a tough second-round group containing the hosts, Spain, and the eventual runners-up, West Germany?

I seem to remember England returning home unbeaten. The Irish Republic were nowhere to be seen in either competition. I would also add that England have never lost a World Cup qualifying match since 1981.

One other reader makes the point that very little foreign football is shown in English television. But to suggest that the Irish are benefiting from such coverage is laughable. The Republic of Ireland just play a tediouslong ball game which has precious little to do with Brazil, Argentina or anyone else.

Another letter in the August issue contained the comment: "Up to 1985, England had done nothing in its history except win the 1966 World Cup when Pele was, fortunately for us, kicked out of it."

Your reader seems to treat the winning of the 1966 World Cup as almost incidental. Only six countries have ever won the World Cup. He should be proud that England are one of them.

As for Pele "kicked out of it." Whose fault is that? If it had been England who had "kicked him out of it," then there would be some justification for this whingeing. But Portugal, Hungary and Bulgaria were the other teams in Brazil's group. It was nothing to do with England. They just beat the teams they came up against and, deservedly, won the trophy.

The letter, meanwhile, goes from bad to worse: "Our clubs' European successes have been gained mainly because of the fear instilled in the opposition simply by the words 'English opposition' . . . it was blatantly obvious that they were far superior technically — embarrassingly so at times."

Is he serious? Eight European Champions' Cups, five Cup-winners' Cups and nine Fairs/UEFA Cups -wasn't there just a little bit of skill, good football and, dare I say it, technical superiority involved in accumulating 22 trophies?

Finally, consider the last paragraph about Red Star Belgrade outclassing Liverpool at Anfield. The writer obviously does not realise that this match led to Liverpool changing their style to a more "European" game and this, in turn, led to some fabulous successes in the following ten years or so. What about the 1977 Supercup second leg when Liverpool destroyed Kevin Keegan's Hamburg 6-0; or the 1978 Champions' Cup semi-final second leg when Borussia Monchengladbach were torn apart; or the 1977 final against the same opposition; or the 1978 thrashing of Benfica?

I could go on and on . . .

— STEVE LEE, Redleaves Avenue, Ashford, Middlesex.

Maradona scores the winner for Argentine against England in their controversial 1986 World Cup-tie.

SIR — I must congratulate you and your publishers on a much-improved World Soccer. As you hoped, in your June edition editorial, it is a much stronger magazine with much more to read, better illustrations including the introduction of colour and also more pages. The change of balance in advertisements (no dating agency adverts) also helps. My only displeasure is at the typographical errors — initial hiccups, maybe. As a buyer of your magazine for the last ten years I hope my comments are helpful as I would like to be able to continue enjoying World Soccer for the next ten — or even 20 — years.

— S.HENDERSON, Creighton Avenue, Montagu Estate, Newcastle upon Tyne.

SIR — Sometimes it makes me cringe when British managers or players join foreign clubs because I know just the sort of wide-of-the-mark nonsense large sections of Fleet Street come out with. A typical example was the English media's handling of the Gary Lineker situation at Barcelona last season. Presumably John Toshack will come in for the same during the next few years at Real Madrid.

Lineker did not suit the plans of his coach, Johan Cruyff. That appears to have been all that happened. Players in England are always being transferred because the manager wants a different style or a different face in the team. That can be for lots of reasons, sometimes totally unconnected with how well he performs out on the pitch. But that, I suppose, would spoil a good headline.

— ANDREW JONES, Hereford Walk, Kidderminster.

SIR — I have a complaint about the English Sunday newspapers and their coverage of football. After Chris Waddle had been sold to Marseille, you might have thought every player in the Football League was about to go abroad, to read the Sunday papers. Where do they get this nonsense? I think we should be told!

— RYAN LEWIS, Monmouth Villas, Cardigan Road, Cardiff.

SIR — I must congratulate you not only the 'new look' to World Soccer, but on your brilliant expanded coverage of the scene in Brazil.

I thrilled to Brian Homewood's descriptions of the history and problems of Brazilian football — made all the more fascinating by Brazil's success in the Copa America and likely role among next year's World Cup favourites.

— V. A. PRITCHARD, Burlington Road, Redland, Bristol.

Gary Lineker

Video review

BRIAN CLOUGH may not have been the most successful manager in the English game in terms of trophies, but he has been by far the most famous manager in the Football league over the past two decades.

Clough pops up large as life in the new video Wembley, Wembley: The Official Nottingham Forest FC Season 1988-89 (and that's just the title!). He is just one of a string of Forest personalities interviewed about the last season. The video concentrates heavily on the Simod and Littlewoods/league Cups with the Football League and FA Cup

INFORMATION DESK

BOOKS

COLIN JOSE has been keeping World Soccer readers up to date with events in North America for many years now. Who better, then, to come up with the definite statistical history of the North American Soccer League?

Jose's book NASL: A Complete Record of the North American Soccer League is priced at an economic £17.95 and published by Breedon Books (45 Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1DA), a company who have have created their own niche in the soccer book market by concentrating on statistical club histories.

This, then, is something of a leap in the publishing dark. But many people in the game have fond memories of the NASL and what its founding fathers expected of it. One might say, as has leading light Clive Toye, that the NASL — for all its failings and ultimate collapse — acted as a catalyst without which the award of the 1994 World Cup finals to the United States would have been impossible.

In 352 pages of statistic and text Jose brings those days back to nostalgic life. There is an A-Z featuring biographies and NASL career records of leading players and coaches. Then Jose takes the reader through each season, from 1967, by way of each team's results and squad details. It's a real memory-jerker. Who would otherwise have remembered that one 'Brit,' Bobby Thomson, was replaced by Malcolm Musgrove as coach to the Connecticut Bi-Centennials in 1977?

If that is somewhat obscure, there is no hiding place sought or possible for Rangers: The Official Illustrated History (by Stephen Halliday; Arthur Barker, 91 Claphan High Street, London SW4 7TA: price £9.95).

There could hardly by a more high-profile moment for the publication of such a book, following the highly-dramatic and hugely controversial capture of Mo Johnston. But anyone reading through the action-packed descriptive pages would be given no real insight into the religious aspect of the rivalry with Celtic. The issue is disappointingly ignored.

Jan Ceulemans

SIR — I am a great admirer of the Belgian player Jan Ceulemans. Please can you give me some information about his career?
— SALLY PRICE, Elm Park Road, Finchley, London N3.

★ Jan Ceulemans was born on February 28, 1957, was Footballer of the Year in Belgium in 1980 and 1985, has won nearly 80 caps, and is national captain. He began with Lierse and cost Brugge a then Belgian record £250,000 in the summer of 1978. In 1980 he scored 29 of their 76 goals in Brugge's championship win, starred in the European championship finals and was voted Footballer of the Year for the first time. In 1981 he was poised to join Milan but was persuaded by his mother to stay in Belgium — and Milan signed Joe Jordan instead. Ceulemans played with distinction in the last two World Cups and European finals. He stands ninth in the Belgian league all-time scorers list and, in 1985, signed a seven-year contract to keep him at Brugge for the rest of his career.

SIR — Please can you explain why Auxerre and Dinamo Zagreb had to play-off in a preliminary round of the UEFA Cup. I thought the Cup-winners' Cup was the only European competition with a preliminary round. Also, why are Hajduk Split not representimg Yugoslavia in the UEFA Cup?
— PAUL PEARSON, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

★ Strictly speaking, the two-leg play-off between Auxerre and Dinamo was not an integrated part of the new UEFA Cup campaign. When Albania failed to take up their UEFA Cup place left vacant by Nentori's suspension, the place should have fallen due to the next nation down the UEFA points-per-game chart (the so-called coefficients). However, France and Yugoslavia were absolutely level. Thus the two UEFA Cup contenders from these two nations had to play-off for the right of entry. As for Hajduk Split, they were disqualified from a European place because of a suspension imposed for crowd trouble at a European tie against Bordeaux.

SIR — I have seen a number of fixture lists for European countries which stop at the end of the year. There are no fixtures available for the second half of the season. Why is that? Are other magazines too lazy to publish the full fixtures programmes?
— VICTOR ELLIS, Seagrave Cottage, Cublington.

★ Several European nations — Portugal are a good example — decided not to finalise dates and matches for the second half of their league campaign until they knew whether or not Â they will be competing in the World Cup finals in Italy. If Portugal, again as an example, do qualify then the second half of the season is likely to include at least two full league rounds in midweek to shorten the season and provide the national team players with extra time to prepare for Italia 90.

SIR — I was lucky enough to be in West Germany recently and attended the league match in which Borussia Monchengladbach drew 0-0 at home to Bayern Munich. Please could you tell me the team details because I could not obtain these at the time?
— L.J. BRADFORD, Waterloo Street, Tipton, West Midlands.

★ Borussia were: Kamps — Klinkert, Straka, Eichin — Winkhold, Effenberg, Spies (Winter 82), Hochstatter, Neun — Max (Bruns 67), Criens. Coach: Werner. Bayern were: Aumann — Augenthaler — Grahammer, Kohler — Reuter, Flick, Thon (Schwabl 46), Pflugler, Dorfner — McInally, Mihajlovic (Bender 77). Coach: Heynckes. Referee was Osmers of Bremen; the attendance 34,000.

JOHN BLOM, Wright Close, Heathcote, Sydney, Australia: Denmark qualified for the 1986 World Cup finals thanks to these preliminary round results: 1-0 v Norway (scorer Elkjaer); 0-1 v Switzerland; 3-0 v Rep.Ireland (Elkjaer two, Lerby); 4-2 v Soviet Union (Elkjaer two, Laudrup two); 0-1 v Soviet Union; 0-0 v Switzerland; 5-1 v Norway (Laudrup, Lerby, Elkjaer, Berggren two); 4-1 v Rep.Ireland (Elkjaer two, Laudrup, Sivebaek).

OLIVER HARTING, Meopelhof, Bad Oeynhausen, West Germany: Only three editions of World Soccer Digest were published, in 1961, 1962 and 1963.

M.J. FOX, North Western Avenue, Watford: The result of the Uli Stielike testimonial game was Xamax Neuchatel 5, Rest of the World XI 5. The only Rumanian so far to have reached a century of caps is Ladislau Boloni.

WORLD SOCCER

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taking their places in the background.

One criticism: the novelty of repeating goal action from every conceivable angle does become a little tedious at times. Forest fans surely won't mind. The video, price £11.99, is being distributed by CastleVision. Inquiries to Winsor Beck, Network House, Stirling Road, London W3 8DJ.

Publications

In the book department, we are awaiting the autumn/pre-Christmas rush of new publications, including the new football annuals — none of which had come World Soccer's way at press time.

Readers might, however, be particularly in an Italian publication: Eurocoppe 1989, by Alfonso Spadoni (£9 including postage; from A.A.Spadoni, Via Terraggio 7, 20123 Milan, Italy).

Anyone interested in the three European club competitions will be delighted with this publication. It is all-statistics, so there is no serious language barrier. Spadoni sets out, for every match in European tournament action last term, the scores, scorers, goal times, line-ups (including all first names), attendances and referees.

Still on statistics, the Football Trust (Second Floor, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ) has published the fourth Digest of Football Statistics (price £7).

In addition to updating figures relatingto attendance levels, club finances and arreststhe latest publication features new material including membership scheme figures. The Digest records that more than 605,000 spectators are membership scheme adherents. Manchester United have the largest number of members in the League (40,900); Hartlepool the lowest (200).

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to:
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King's Reach Tower
Stamford Street
London SE1 9LS

We regret that information Desk queries (NO long lists, please) can be dealt with only through this column.

DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEW

OBITUARY

SERGIO ZORZI . . . Swiss lawyer who was UEFA's disciplinary chief for 16 years, has died at 77 in his home town of Bellinzona. Zorzi was president of the Ticino regional federation for 40 years and was at one time vice-president of the Swiss federation. Zorzi was appointed a founder member of UEFA's disciplinary committee in 1968 and was elected appeal board chairman in 1972.

OSWALDO BRANDAO . . . veteran Brazilian coach, has died in Sao Paulo aged 72 after a three-year illness fight. Brandao, nicknamed The Master, took up coaching after a knee injury halted his playing career when he was only 27. He guided Brazil through the qualifying rounds of the 1358 World Cup, only to be replaced before the finals by Vicente Feola. He returned 20 years later to guide Brazil to the finals in Argentina, being replaced again before the finals, this time by Claudio Coutinho. At one time or another Brandao coached almost every major Brazilian club.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

AUSTRIA: OFB president Hans Reitinger warns that the domestic game has reached crisis point as it approaches the new season, adding: "We have critical attendance problems, especially in Vienna."

BELGIUM: Australian forward Peter Slater, from Sydney Croatia, says he will fly to Belgium to join Anderlecht in a £150,000 transfer. Slater, who had an unsuccessful trial in 1984 with Nottingham Forest, says: "Now I feel I am mature enough to make a real go of playing in Europe. It's always been my ambition and I do not intend to waste the opportunity." Fellow Aussies Frank Farina and Vlado Bozinovski also play in Belgium, at Club Brugge.

BRAZIL: National boss Sebastiao Lazaroni names Napoli striker Careca inb his 25-man squad for the forthcoming World Cup qualifiers and drops Golden Boot-winner Baltazar, of Atletico Madrid. Also out is Bahia centre-forward Charles, whose selection was forced on Lazaroni for the recent South American championship-winning campaign. Squad: Taffarel, Acacio, Ze Carlos; Mazinho, Josimar, Jorginho, Mauro Galvao, Aldair, Mozer, Branco, Andre Cruz, Ricardo; Dunga, Geovani, Silas, Tita, Valdo, Alemao; Cristovao, Bismarck, Bebeto, Romario, Renato Gaucho, Careca, Edivaldo.

FRANCE: Bordeaux's England striker Clive Allen completes formalities of his £1million return home to Manchester City . . . Marseille give Chris Waddle permission to delay his arrival for the new season by one day.

ITALY: Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino says he will not permit Diego Maradona to leave in mid-contract, "no matter what Marseille may offer." Ferlaino was replying to questions about a reported comment that Maradona had suggested there was a 40 per cent chance Napoli would release him. Ferlaino says: "How could we replace him?" He speaks out after Napoli report a drop in season ticket advance sales, possibly due to uncertainty about Maradona's future.

WEST GERMANY: Deposed champions Werder Bremen loan New Zealand World Cup striker Wynton Rufer from Grasshoppers Zurich for a year. Transfer talks had broken down but Rufer had threatened to walk out on Hoppers and return to New Zealand unless he were allowed to play in the Bundesliga. Bremen coach Otto Rehhagel says: "He is just the right man to fit into my attack."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

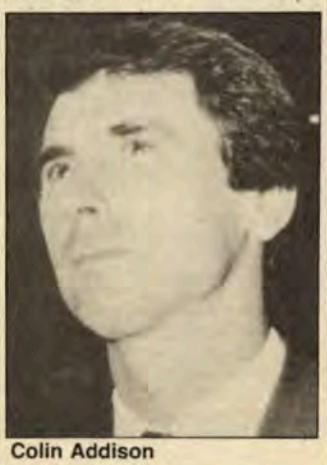
ACTION: Canada beat Congo 2-1 thanks to goals from Nick Gilbert and Dominic Mobilio (penalty) to reach the final of the firsty Francophone Games, in Casablanca, Morocco. Ibayi scores the Congolese consolation.

DENMARK: Luton pull out of the bidding for Denmark striker Lars Elstrup. Luton boss Ray Harford blames a leak about their talks. He says: "I had a £600,000 deal lined up. Then news of it leaked out in Denmark, two German clubs began to show interest, Wimbledon came in and the price doubled. I wasn'r prepared to go that high."

ENGLAND: Osvaldo Ardiles, 1978 Argentine World Cup-winner, is appointed manager of second division Swindon in succession to West Ham-bound Lou Macari. Ardiles has been playing during the summer in the US with Fort Lauderdale . . . Israel fullback David Pizanti is given a free transfer by Queen's Park Rangers.

FRANCE: Chris Waddle formally signs a four-year contract with Marseille worth £4.5million.

ITALY: Federation president Antonio Matarrese announces tough new measures to crack down on the hooligan menace less than a year before Italy plays host to the World Cup finals. The blueprint includes making clubs responsible for fan behaviour outside as well as inside the ground, and punishment by way of fines and suspensions for coaches and players who incite crowd unrest.



Colin Addison

SPAIN: Colin Addison, sacked just before the end of last season by Atletico Madrid, turns down an offer from Betis to make an instant return to Spanish soccer. He says: "I've had two spells in Spain over the last few years and I want to enjoy being back home in England."

FRIDAY, JULY 21

FRANCE: Marseille win 4-1 away to Lyon in the opening league match of the season. Chris Waddle makes his Marseille debut with the match already won. as a second-half substitute for Jean-Pierre Papin — who gives Waddle a generous welcome by presenting him with the captain's armband.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

ACTION: Iran beat China 3-2 in the World Cup qualifiers . . . the United States national team win the Marlboro Cup of Chicago, beating Chivas Guadalajara of Mexico 2-1 in extra time thanks to a Bruce Murray penalty. In the third place match, Ruch Chorzow of Poland beat the Guatemala national team 4-0. Krzystof Warzycha scores a hat-trick and twice shoots against a post.

AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna make a confident start under new boss Hans Krankl, beating St Polten 3-0. Champions Tirol are held 2-2 away to Vorwarts Steyr.

BRAZIL: Palmeiras agree a deal with Newcastle to bring Mirandinha home on loan.

FRANCE: Last season's surprise team, Auxerre, lose their first match of the new campaign 2-1 away to Nantes.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

ACTION: Brazil beat Japan 1-0 in a Rio de Janeiro friendly in the San Januario stadium. Bismarck scores the winner after 74 minutes before a 3,000 crowd. One blow for Brazil is the head injury and concussion suffered by forward Tita which will rule him out of the forthcoming World Cup-tie against Venezuela.

OMAN: Peter Velappan, secretary of the Asian confederation, says he wants to see the Asian club champions competing in a 'proper' world club championship.

SOVIET UNION: Players and coaches, meeting in Moscow, vote to form an indepedent trades union, of which the leading proponent and potential leader is former international centre-forward Viktor Ponedelnik.

MONDAY, JULY 24

BRAZIL: Prospective World Cup skipper Jorginho, of Flamengo, agrees to join West Germany's Bayer Leverkusen. Flamengo vice-president Josef Berenzsteyn says: "We tried to keep Jorginho but the offer he received from West Germany was too high for us to match. So, sadly, we've lost him." Jorginho says that, coming so soon after the birth of a daughter, this was the greatest time of both his life and career.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA fine Mo Johnston £3,500 for his part in the Nantes/Celtic/Rangers transfer confusion. Also fined is Sweden international Stefan Rehn. His punishment is a £1,500 fine for a transfer mix-up involving Djurgarden/ Neuchatel Xamax/Everton.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

ACTION: Fanja of Oman beat Katmandu SC of Nepal 5-0 in an Asian club qualifier in Baushar.

BELGIUM: Israel striker Ronnie Rosenthal says he will sue Udinese of Italy for calling off his transfer from Standard Liege. Udinese claim Rosenthal has a back injury; Rosenthal claims Udinese had given way to anti-Semitic threats. Standard may also sue. A club spokesman says: "They waited a month before pulling out of the deal so we did not have time to sell Rosenthal to anyone else." . . . Antwerp's local authority shut the 66-year-old local stadium on safety grounds. It is hoped £200,000 worth of modifications, undertaken with help from volunteer fan/workers, will see the stadium reopened in time for the league season.

FRANCE: Chris Waddle scores his first goal for Marseille, in a 2-2 draw in a friendly against Martigues behind closed doors. Waddle also suffers a foot injury which makes him doubtful for the weekend league match against Nantes.

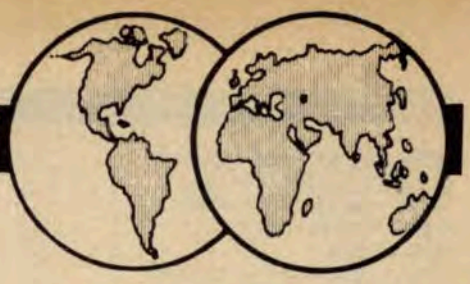
SWITZERLAND: FIFA announce that Oceania World Cup qualifying winners Israel will play away in the first leg of the eventual play-off against the South American group two winners (Colombia or Ecuador or Paraguay). The match dates will be October 29 and November 12 . . . FIFA confirm that the vexed El Salvador v United States tie will be played in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on September 17 . . . the Asian zone finals will be played in Singapore from October 12 to 29. Already through are North Korea,

THE MONTH AHEAD: SEPTEMBER

* = World Cup qualifier.
U = European under-21 chp.

3.9.89	Trin/Tobago v Guatemala*
3.9.89	Bolivia v Uruguay*
3.9.89	Ecuador v Colombia*
3.9.89	Brazil v Chile*
5.9.89	Norway v France*
5.9.89	U:Belgium v Portugal
5.9.89	U:Norway v France
5.9.89	U:Yugoslavia v Scotland
5.9.89	U:Iceland v Finland
5.9.89	U:Sweden v England
5.9.89	U:Austria v Soviet Union
6.9.89	Belgium v Portugal*
6.9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland*
6.9.89	Austria v Soviet Union*
6.9.89	Iceland v East Germany*
6.9.89	Sweden v England*
6.9.89	Finland v Wales*
6.9.89	Northern Ireland v Hungary*
6.9.89	Rep.Ireland v W.Germany/f (Dublin)
10.9.89	Paraguay v Ecuador*
10.9.89	Peru v Bolivia*
13.9.89	C1-2-3 1/1
17.9.89	Uruguay v Bolivia*
19.9.89	El Salvador v United States* (in Tegucigalpa, Honduras)
20.9.89	Iceland v Turkey*
20.9.89	Switzerland v Portugal*
20.9.89	Italy v Bulgaria/f
20.9.89	U: Italy v Bulgaria
24.9.89	Uruguay v Peru*
24.9.89	Colombia v Paraguay*
27.9.89	C1-2-3 1/2

ERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE



Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates and China or Iran.

WEST GERMANY: Relegated Hannover 96 sign Tunisia's Nabil Maaloul, 26, who has played 62 times for his country.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

ACTION: Punjab of Pakistan and Salgaocar SC of India draw 0-0 in an Asian club qualifier in Muscat.

ENGLAND: Iceland midfielder Siggi Jonsson agrees to join Arsenal from Sheffield Wednesday after turning down Nottingham Forest and Chelsea . . . Manchester United sell Northern Ireland star Norman Whiteside to Everton, who also sign Dutch under-21 man Raymond Attevald from Haarlem.

HOLLAND: Double-winners PSV Eindhoven deny that midfielder Gerald Vanenburg is about to leave for Roma. General manager Kees Ploegsma says: "I have had no contact from anyone at Roma. Vanenburg is contracted with PSV until 1992. He did have the right, written into his contract, to leave but he was bound to have informed us before July 1. He did not do so."

SWITZERLAND: FIFA's executive committee confirm that all World Cup matches after next year, must be played in front of all-seater crowds. This applies to both qualifying and finals matches for the 1994 World Cup. General secretary Sepp Blatter says: "There will be no standing room. All seats must be numbered and no benches will be allowed. Who will pay? What is a human life worth? This is up to the clubs who pay their players such high salaries, and the national associations. There will be no financial help from FIFA, not even for the poorer member countries. They must work something out with their governments." FIFA also order that all matches defined as 'high risk' must, from 1993, be played in front of all-seater crowds . . . FIFA choose Nigeria to host the 1991 World Youth Cup ahead of Portugal and Australia . . . FIFA decide that the result of the hooligan-halted World Cup qualifier in San Salvador will stand at 4-2 to Costa Rica against El Salvador. An indefinite home match ban on El Salvador as far as the World Cup is concerned, is imposed. Cyprus are banned from hosting any further ties in the current World Cup qualifiers because of missile-throwing at the February defeat by Scotland; the Cypriots are also fined £3,000. Firework-throwing and other crowd problems incur fines for Spain (£3,000), Holland (£2,000), the United Arab Emirates, Angola, Jordan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and Qatar . . . FIFA ban Iraq from all competitions (save senior events such as the World Cup) for breaching age limit regulations at the World Youth Cup in Saudi Arabia last February. Iraq reached the quarter-finals. FIFA also announces that age-limit complaints regarding winners Saudi Arabia and Nigeria are being investigated following the World Under-16 Cup in Scotland.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

BRAZIL: Flamengo fans, infuriated by the sale of Jorginho to Leverkusen and Aldair to Benfica, are scandalised by the announcement that superstar forward Bebeto is being sold to rivals and neighbours Vasco da Gama. The deal, financed by a group of industrialists, is worth a domestic record £1.6million. Bebeto's contract with Flamengo had expired on June 30 and the club had gambled disastrously that no other Brazilian club could match their renewal offer of £120,000-a-year. Bebeto's agent, Jose Moraes, says that Bebeto expects to transfer to Europe after next year's World Cup. Under the terms of his agreemrnt with Vasco, he would pocket half the transfer fee . . . national boss Sebastiao Lazaroni says anything less than victory in the World Cup opener against Venezuela "would be a disaster, so we will attack from the first whistle."

SOVIET UNION: Spartak are held goalless at home by third-placed Moscow Torpedo. But Spartak still lead Torpedo and second-placed Zhalguiris Vilnius by five points.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA threatens to suspend Kuwait unless the federation withdraws the threat of a five-million-lawsuit following the FIFA-enforced cancellation of a proposed 42-nation Islamic championship . . . in Swiss league action, Neuchatel Xamax go top of the table thanks to a 4-2 away win over Sion in which new Polish signing Ryszard Tarasiewicz scores twice.

UNITED STATES: In a pre-merger agreement, the champions of the Western Soccer League and the American Soccer League will meet in a 'Soccer Bowl' play-off on September 9 in San Jose. Further discussions on the shape of a new national league will be held in October.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

ACTION: In further Asian club play in Muscat, Oman, the Pakistani team Punjab are held again, this time 1-1 by Katmandu SC. Punjab save a draw thanks to an 85th-minute goal from Zahid Luqma.

CHINA: A visit by Everton is cancelled on British Embassy advice because of the recent civil unrest.

HOLLAND: Luckless PSV and Holland goalkeeper Jan Van Breukelen will miss the start of the new season after breaking a bone in his left hand in training. Van Breukelen missed almost all the second half of last season after being injured in an indoor tourmament in West Germany.

SWEDEN: Alessandro Arcangeli, 26, and Marcio Thomson, 33, both of the Botafogo club of Sao Paulo (not THE Botafogo) are sentenced to one month and two-week jail terms respectively in Stockholm for beating referee Kari Grundstrom unconsious during a local tournament semi-final against the Swedish youth club, Spanga IS.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

ACTION: China beat Thailand 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier to win Asian zone group five on goal difference and goes through to the play-off mini-league in Singapore . . . in the African Nations' Cup, Kenya qualify for the finals in Algeria next March after a 0-0 draw at home to Malawi. Kenya won the first leg 3-2 in Blantyre . . . In the Makita International semi-finals at Wembley, Arsenal beat Porto 1-0 and Liverpool defeat Kiev Dynamo 2-0.

BRAZIL: Veteran coach Oswaldo Brandao dies in Sao Paulo, aged 72, after a long illness . . . Vasco da Gama try to persuade Benfica and Bayer Leverkusen to let them loan Aldair and Jorginho until after next year's World Cup finals.

FRANCE: Marseille beat Nantes 1-0 thanks to a 62nd-minute penalty save by goalkeeper Gaetan Huard.

HOLLAND: Gerald Vanenburg confirms that he will stay with PSV "for life" rather than join Roma. A new deal with PSV ties Vanenburg to the club for the next eight years and guarantees him a pension until the age of 60.

SCOTLAND: Police have sent for analysis medicinal drugs found on a campus used by players at the World Under-16 Cup.

SOVIET UNION: Alexander Shpeer, chief investigator of the 1982 Lenin Stadium tragedy, says the death toll was probably 66 rather than the 340 claimed in recent reports. But Troekuro cemetery official A.Kuznetsov says he counted 102 bodies.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich open the new season in winning form. Alan McInally scores twice in a 3-2 win over Nurnberg while Yugoslav Radomir Mihajlovic grabs the last-minute winner.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

ACTION: Brazil open their World Cup campaign in decisive fashion, beatimng Venezuela 4-0 in Caracas with goals from Branco, Romario and Bebeto (two). In the North/central American section, Trinidad and Tobago beat El Salvador 2-0 thanks to two goals from Leonson Lewis . . . African Nations' Cup action sees Gabon and Egypt qualify for the finals at the expense of Zambia and Zaire . . . in the final of the Makita International at Wembley, Arsenal beat Liverpool 1-0. Kiev beat Porto 1-0 in the third-place match . . . an Elland Road friendly sees Leeds crash 5-1 to Anderlecht. Noel Blake is sent off as Luc Nilis and Marc Van der Linden score two goals apiece for the Belgians . . . Pele performs the ritual kick-off at the 17th annual Norway Cup, claimed to be the world's biggest youth tournament.

AUSTRIA: The big match sees Rapid beaten 2-0 at home by champions Tirol.

MONDAY, JULY 31

HOLLAND: Twente Enschede sell Freddy Van der Hoorn to Dundee United for £200,000.

ITALY: Presidents Corrado Ferlaino of Napoli and Silvio Berlusconi of Milan lead a powerful, concerted attack on the new anti-hooligan measures proposed by the federation.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

ARGENTINA: River Plate sell star forward Enrique Balbo to promoted Udinese of Italy for £1.7million.

FRANCE: Lille draw 1-1 with Monaco in a league match brought forward from the following night.

ITALY: Napoli officials say there is no rift with Diego Maradona despite talk of a Marseille transfer and his late return from holiday in Argentina. General manager Luciano Moggi says: "Maradona has been playing in the South American championship. Like all workers with Italian companies he asked for 28 days' holiday and this we were happy to grant."

WEST GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen officials deny reports that Flamengo fullback Jorginho will not be signing after all. Bayer coach Reiner Calmund says: "We are not interested in gossip. Jorginho will be coming here after Brazil's World Cup qualifying matches and will be playing for us in September."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

FRANCE: Chris Waddle scores his first league goal for Marseille, giving them the lead against Toulouse. But the champions are beaten 2-1.

ITALY: Juventus, rejected in bids for Dunga, Muller, Povlsen et al, spring a £1.8million transfer surprise by snatching Minsk midfielder Sergei Aleinikov from the grasp of Genoa — who accuse the Soviet authorities of breaking their promise. Aleinikov will, of course, team up with Soviet colleague Alexander Zavarov . . . Argentine forward Claudio Caniggia scores twice in a friendly on his debut for his new club, Atalanta . . . Brazilian midfielder Milton decides to stay with Como despite their relegation at the end of last season.

SOVIET UNION: Aleinikov is not the only transfer confirmed. Alexander Borodyuk, former league top scorer, agrees to move from Moscow Dynamo to Schalke, thus becoming the first Soviet soccer export to West Germany . . . and centre back Ivan Vishnevsky, of champions Dnepr, is transferred to Turkish champions Fenerbahce.

UNITED STATES: Lothar Osiander, former national team boss, is appointed in charge of the US Olympic team. English-born Bobby Howe is appointed under-20s' coach.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

EAST GERMANY: Cup-holders Dynamo Berlin beat league champions Dynamo Dresden 4-1 in the Supercup.

REPUBLIC of IRELAND . . . from SEAN CREEDON

Champions Derry are favourites for the League title

OPEL STAY IN THE DRIVING SEAT

OPEL will again sponsor the League of Ireland championship which kicks-off on Sunday, September 3.

This is the last year of the sponsors' agreement and no indication has yet been given whether they intend to continue. The car manufacturers' are also heavily involved with The Republic of Ireland team.

Derry City, who won the Opel League Premier Division, FAI Harp Lager Cup and the Opel League-Cup last season, will be favourites to retain the League title. Manager Jim McLaughlin has basically the same squad that won the treble at Brandywell again this season.

Champions

There was speculation that midfielder Paul Doolin and striker Liam Coyle would join English clubs, but at the time of writing both players were still with City. The only player to leave was Noel Larkin, who has emigrated to Australia.

Dundalk, who made Derry sweat it out until the very last game last season, are the club most likely to dethrone the champions. Manager Turlough O'Connor has lost James Gannon to Sheffield United and striker Dessie Gorman to a French club. But he has signed Peter Eccles from Leicester, James Coll from Limerick City and Fran Hitchcock from Athlone Town. Roddy Collins has also rejoined the County Louth club after spells with Mansfield Town, Newport and Shamrock Rovers.

University College Dublin have three Hungarians, while Shamrock Rovers have signed five players from Hungary! Liam Buckley is also back with The Hoops, who will continue to share Dalymount Park with Bohemians. Shelbourne are sharing Tolka Park with first division Home Farm, while St Patrick's Athletic move temporarily to Shels' old ground at Harold's Cross while the new grass grows on a now level Richmond Park.

Cork City, who face a long journey in the Cup-winners' Cup to play Torpedo Moscow, have lost their star centre-half Brian Carey to Manchester United. Irish Republic clubs have failed to score in Europe for the past two season. That's over one thousand minutes of European football without a goal.

But Jack Charlton's national team can do no wrong. On September 6 Jack's lads will be bidding for their 11th straight win at Lansdowne Road when West Germany provide the opposition in a friendly. Only Wales have beaten the Republic in Dublin since Jack took over — and that was in his first game in charge back in March 1986.

Gary Waddock, who recently signed for Millwall, could make his international comeback in this game. The red-haired midfielder trained with the Irish squad for the World Cup games against Malta and Hungary after meeting Jack Charlton at a function.

Waddock, 27, won the last of his 19 caps against the Soviet Union in October 1985. He then accepted an insurance pay-off from Queens Park Rangers, but made a successful comeback in Belgium with Charleroi.

Provided he has his full squad available it will be interesting to see if David O'Leary will be dropped to make way for Mick McCarthy. Before his knee operation last May, McCarthy was the most consistent of the 39 players used by Charlton in his three and a half years in charge. O'Leary has played in only four of Jack's 30 games.

FINLAND . . . from PENTTI HIETANEN

THE poor league form of champions HJK Helsinki, coupled with their Euro draw with Milan, prompted the board to act quickly in the transfer-market.

Firstly, they brought home big striker Jari Rantanen from his unhappy stay with Leicester. Only a few days later the much- travelled midfielder Pasi Rautiainen also returned to the Finnish capital. Rautiainen, now 28, has played abroad since 1980, in West Germany (Bayern Munich, Werder Bremen, Arminia Bielefeld and Wattenscheid) and in Switzerland (Locarno).

Also joining the blue-and-whites will be the Danish forward Klaus Granlund (32), from Ikast. Granlund has appeared for the Danish Olympic side and played as a pro in Holland and in Switzerland.

Hopefully, HJK will have more luck with their signings than with their recent league match in Oulu. The match had to be cancelled because HJK's air tickets had been wrongly dated!

A strange incident also in a 2-2 draw between TPS Turku and Kuopio PS, when the visitors' goalkeeper Jyrki Rovio scored his team's equaliser by heading home a corner.

Marko Myyry, that little midfield man, has signed a three- year contract with Belgium's Lokeren. Myyry spent the past two seasons with SV Meppen, of West Germany.

The former Hungarian national team boss Gyorgy Mezey is currently coaching in Finland — little Hango IK in the local third division. Mezey came to Finland with his lips firmly sealed. He said: "The bribes scandal in Hungary is a very sad tale, but I would rather not talk about it."

SOVIET UNION . . . from BOB VAUGHAN

NO change at the top. Leaders Spartak drew 0-0 at home to cross- city rivals Dynamo then won 3-2 away to Chernomorets in Odessa to retain pole position.

Challengers Zhalguiris remain six points adrift while the next three clubs in the championship paused to make visits to Britain, presumably in preparation for European Cup matches.

Kiev, despite Chanov's excellent goalkeeping, could do little at Wembley and were also without several stars in the Amsterdam tournament. Dnepr were journeying to Sunderland and Southampton while Moscow Dynamo were consoled for the renewed failure to see off Spartak by a nostalgic trip to Wolverhampton.

SWEDEN . . . from PENTTI HIETANEN

MALMO LAND THE DOUBLE

Roger Lung

IT IS amazing how Roy Hodgson's Malmo FF keep going from strength to strength.

Clear leaders in the league, Malmo also secured the victory in the Swedish cup by defeating Djurgarden 3-0 in the final. The southerners played some delightful soccer based on a rock-solid defence and imaginative midfield probings by Benfica-bound Jonas Thern.

Thern clearly outshone Djurgarden's Everton-bound schemer Stefan Rehn. The latter is a talented ball-player but it will be interesting to see how he can cope in England.

Malmo's pairing with Italy's Inter-Milan in the Champions' Cup gives Hodgson's heroes a chance to avenge their defeat against the Italians in the UEFA Cup last year. At home, MFF did everything but score but a fluke goal by Serena was enough to decide the tie.

Swiss clubs are buying Swedish these days. Malmo's skipper Roger Ljung has joined compatriots Bjorn Nilsson and coach Tord Grip at Young Boys Berne, while Neuchatel Xamax have signed Peter Lonn from Norrkoping. Lonn, 27, is best remembered for his brilliant headed goal versus West Germany during the Seoul Olympics. His chances with the full Swedish team have been limited by the presence of Glenn Hysen and Peter Larsson.

One Swede not staying in Switzerland is midfielder Anders Limpar, whom Young Boys have sold to Italy's Cremonese. Limpar is still only 22, but his fluid, skilful style should suit the Italian game. Limpar, whose father hails from Hungary, played his career in Sweden for Brommapojkarna and Orgryte.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

SECOND ROUND

Nkana Red Devils (Zambia) 5 Fire Brigade (Mauritius) 1; Fire Brigade 2 Nkana Red Devils 3. ***Nkana Red Devils won 8-3 on agg.***

Esperance (Tunisia) 3 Mouloudia d'Oran (Algeria) 2; Moulou dia d'Oran 3 Esperance 1. ***Mouldoudia d'Oran won 5-4 on agg.***

Mighty Blackpool (Sierre Leone) 2 Djoliba (Mali) 1; Djoliba 0 Mighty Blackpool 0. ***Mighty Blackpool won 2-1 on agg.***

Zimbabwe Saints(Zimbabwe) 0 Express FC (Uganda) 1; Express FC 0 Zimbabwe Saints 1. ***1-1 on agg. Zimbabwe Saints won 4-3 on pens.***

Vita Club (Zaire) 1 Tonerre Yaounde (Cameroun) 1; Tonnerre Yaounde 3 Vita Club 1. ***Tonnerre Yaounde won 4-2 on agg.***

AFC Leopards (Kenya) 1 Al-Mourada (Sudan) 0; Al-Mourada 3 AFC Leopards 0. ***Al-Mourada won 3-1 on agg.***

JAC Port Gntil (Gabon) 1 Raja Casablanca (Morocco) 1; Raja Casablanca 0 JAC Port Gentil 0. ***1-1 on agg, Raja Casablanca won away goals rule.***

IWuanyanwu Nationale (Nigeria) 2 Inter Club (Congo) 1; Inter Club 2 Iwuanyanwu Nationale 1. ***3-3 on agg, Inter Club won 5-4 on pens.***

QUARTER-FINALS

Al-Mourada v Mouloudia Oran; Zimbabwe Saints v Nkana Red Devils; Raja Casablanca v Inter Club; Mighty Blackpool v Tonnerre Yaounde.

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS BUP SECOND ROUND

Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC (Madagascar) 1 Power Dynamos (Zambia) 2; Power Dynamos 1 Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC 3. ***BFV FC won 4-3 on agg.***

Costa do Sol (Mozambique) 1 Gor Mahia (Kenya) 2; Gor Mahia 0 Costa do Sol 0. ***Gor Mahia won 2-1 on agg.***

Etincelles (Rwanda) 0 FC Kalamu(Zaire) 0; FC Kalamu 1 Etincelles 0. ***FC Kalamu won 1-0 on agg.***

CA Bizerte (Tunisia) 1 Al Merreikh (Sudan) 0; Al Merreikh 2 CA Bizerte 0. ***Al Merreikh won 2-1 on agg.***

Association Sportive des Fonctionnarires de Bobo (Burkina Faso) 1 Bendel United (Niger) 3; Bendel United 2 Assocation Sportive des Fonctionnarires de Robo 0. ***endel United won 5-2 on agg.***

ASI Abengourou (Cote d'Ivoire) 3 LPRC Oilers (Liberia) 2; LPRC Oilers 2 ASI Abengourou 0. ***LPRC Oilers won 4-3 on agg.***

Stade Malien (Mali) I Union SK Algiers (Algeria) 0; Union SK Algeirs I Stade Malien 0. ***1-1 on agg, Union SK Algiers won 4-3 on pens.***

Patronage (Congo) 2 Sagrada Esperanca (Angola) 1; Sagrada Esperanca 0 Patronage 0. ***Patronage won 2-1 on agg.***

QUARTER-FINALS

Al-Merreikh v Patronage; Gor Mahia v LPRC Oilers; Bendel United v FC Kalamu; Union SK Algiers v Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC.

FRANCOPHONE GAMES (MOROCCO)
Canada's gold medal line-ups

July 13 (Mohammedia) Burkina Faso 1 Canada B 3 (Gilbert 2, Jasken).
Canada: Forrest — Odina,Diotte, Concina, Sarantopoulos — Hooper, Holness, Mrcic (Corrizon) — Jasken (Csabai), Gilbert, Mobilio.

July 16 (Mohammedia) Ivory Coast B 0 Canada B 0.
Canada: Forrest — Sarantopoulos, Diotte, Concina, Gilfillan — Odinga, Mrcic (Reilly), Holness, Hooper — Gilbert (Jasken), Mobilio).

July 19 (Casablanca) Congo 1 (Ibayi) Canada B 2 (Gilbert, Mobilio).
Canada: Brodsgaard — Sarantopoulos, Diotte, Concina, Gilfillan — Odinga (Reilly), Holness, Hooper — Jasken, Gilbert, Mobilio.

July 22 (Casablanca) Morocco B I Canada B 4 (Jasken 2, Holness, Hooper).
Canada: Merkl — Sarantopoulos, Diotte, Concina, Gilfallan — Odinga (Csabai), Holness, Hooper -Jasken, Gilbert(Reilly), Mobilio.

WORLD CUP → CONCACAF FINAL FOUND

May 28 — Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Jones)
Costa Rica 1 Coronado)
HT: 0-0. Ref: Edgardo Codese Menez (Mexico). Att: 26,000.
Trinidad & Tobago: Carter, C. Morris, Williams, Francis, Lawrence,Faustin, Charles, M. Morris (Jones), Latapy (Yorke), Lewis, Alibey.
Costa Rica: Conejo (Hidalgo), Quesada, Flores, Montero, Diaz, C. Hidalgo, Marchene, Rivas, Obando, Coronado, Medford (Duran Marin).

June 11 — San Jose, Costa Rica.
COSTA RICA 1 (Cayasso)
TRINIDAD 7 TOBAGO 0
HT: 0-0. Ref: Joaquin Torres (Colombia). Att: 30,000.
Costa Rica: Conejo, Quesada, Flores, Diaz, Montero, Marchena, Ramirez (C. Hidalgo), Cayasso, Jara, Coronado (Marin), Flores.
Trinidad & Tobago: Carter, Wilson, C. Morris, Francis, Faustin, Lawrence, Charles, Jones, Lewis (Sheene), Chinapoo (Lapaty), Alibey.

June 17 — New Britain, USA.
UNITED STATES 2 (Murray, Eichmann)
GUATELMALA 1 (Chacon)
HT: 1-1. Att: 10,500.

June 25 — San Salvador, El Salvador
EL SALVADOR 2 (Rodriguez, Rivas)
COSTA RICA 4 (Cayasso, C. Hidalgo, Flores 2)
HT: 1-1. Ref: Refugio Ramirez (Mexical). Att. 50,000.
El Salvador: Guevara, Abrego,Trigueros (Carcamo), Rodriguez, Portillo, Vasquez, Garcia, Cienfuegos, Ramirez, Rivas, Correas.
Costa Rica: Gabelo Conejo, Quesada, R. Flores, Montero, Diaz, Cayasso, Marchena, Chavarria, Jara (C. Hidalgo), Coronado (Soalano), L. Flores.

July 16 — San Jose
COSTA RICA 1 (Fernandez)
EL SALVADOR 0
HT: 0-0. Ref: Jorege Orellana (Ecuador). Att: 25,000.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

Port of Spain, Trinidad — Soccer Bowl third place match
Peru 2 (Olaechea, Navarro)
Ecuador 1 (Guerrero)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000.
PERU finished third in the Soccer Bowl event thanks to this victory. Ecuador considered themselves unlucky to finish fourth and last after holding the League of Ireland 1-1 over 90 minutes in their semi-final.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

Santiago — intl friendly
Chile 2 (Covarrubias, Pizarro pen)
Bolivia 1 (Garcia)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000.
Chile: Rojas — Carrasco, Gonzalez (Contreras), Astengo, Reyes, Hisis, Pizarro, Vera, Letelier, Hurtado (Ramirez), Covarrubias.
Bolivia: Barrero — Roca, Fontana, Martinez, Saldias, Villegas, Sanchez, Borja, Arias, Pena (Garcia), Etcheverry (Salinas).
PLAYING their final warm-up before the South American championship, Chile were well on top in the first half and deservedly led 2-0 at the interval. Bolivia improved in the second half but badly missed a couple of key men not released by their Argentine clubs. Garcia's consolation arrived much too late — in the last minute.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Rio de Janeiro/San Januario — intl friendly
Brazil 1 (Bismarck 73)
Japan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000.
Brazil: Taffarel (Ze Carlos) — Mazinho (Josimar), Mauro Galvao, Andre Cruz, Aldair, Branco (Edivaldo) — Dunga (Alemao), Valdo (Silas), Bebeto (Renato) — Romario (Bismarck), Careca (Tita; Cristovao).
Japan: Marishita — Shinto, Ihara, Horika, Mochizuki (Matsuyama), Natori, Mori, Hasegawa, Sazaki, Korosaki, Mizunuma (Yoshida).
BRAZIL started with virtually their South American title-winning side, lacking only injured Ricardo. They played at half pace and were well on top throughout the match. Yet it was not until manager Lazaroni has changed more than half his cast that substitute Bismarck scored the winner 17 minutes from the end. A clash of heads sent Tita to hospital for an overnight stay suffering from serious concussion. Romario was also injured but Brazil welcomed back Careca — who had declared himself unfit for the South American championship even though he had, during that time, played for Napoli in the Italian cup final against Sampdoria.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

June 18: Ecuador 1, League of Ireland 1 (Soccer Bowl semi-final, Port of Spain, Trinidad).
June 20: Trinidad and Tobago 1, League of Ireland 0 (Soccer Bowl final, Port of Spain, Trinidad).
July 9: Estudiantes de La Plata 2, Japan 1.
July 11: Boca Juniors 2, Japan 2.
July 13: Independiente 2, Japan 0.

OTHER MATCH

Liechtenstein Cup Final:
FC Balzers 4, USV Eschen/Mauren 2 (HT 2-2).

South & Central American league tables

ECUADOR: Division A Championship (2nd stage)

Group A	P	W	D	L	GF	Ga	Pts
Aucas	4	2	2	-	10	5	6
Delfin	4	3	-	1	6	5	6
Macara	4	2	1	1	11	8	5
Nacional	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
Dep Cuenca	4	1	-	3	4	8	2
Emelec	4	1	-	3	3	7	2
Group B							
Barcelona	4	3	-	1	6	5	6
Liga Universitaria	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Deportivo Quito	4	2	-	2	7	3	4
Tecnico Universitario	4	-	2	2	3	7	2
Universidad Portoviejo	4	-	1	3	2	5	1

PARAGUAY: First Division
Leading standings: 1. Olimpia 31 points; 2. Guarani 29; 3. Cerro and Colegiales 23.
PERU: "Placido Galindo" Championship Metropolitan zone: 1) Union Huaral 7 points; 2) Universitario 5; 3) San Agustin, Defensor Lima, Alianza Lima 4; 6) Municipal 3.

MEXICO: First Division play-offs

Group 1	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
America	6	3	2	1	12	6	8
Guadalajara	6	4	-	2	9	4	8
Puebla	6	1	3	2	7	10	5
Univ. Aut. de Guadalajara	6	1	1	4	4	12	3
Group 2							
Cruz Azul	6	4	-	2	10	9	8
Tampico Madero	6	3	2	1	9	10	8
Univ. Aut. de Mexico	6	2	2	2	12	7	6
Atlante	6	-	3	3	9	14	3

America beat Cruz Azul in two games (3-2,2-2) for title.

COSTA RICA: First Division (final) regular season 1) Saprissa 49 pts; 2) Heredia 47; 3) Puntarenas 41; 4) Cartago 40; 5) Alajuela 37; 6) Limon 34; 7) Uruguay, San Carlos 29; 9) Guanacaste 28; 10) San Ramon 26.(Top six in final round.)

EL SALVADOR: First Division 1) Alajutla 10 pts; 2) Metapan 9; 3) Cojutepeque, Marte 8; 5) Alianza, Luis Angel Firpo 7; 7) FAS, Dragon 6; 9) Calatenango, Aguila 3.

GUATEMALA: First Division

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Municipal	17	9	5	3	32	17	23
Del Monte	18	7	9	2	21	15	23
Galcasa	18	9	4	5	24	15	22
Comunicaciones	18	5	8	5	22	23	18
Xelaju	18	6	6	6	16	13	18
Aurora	17	4	9	4	16	16	17
Suchitepequez	18	6	5	7	26	19	17
Retalteca	18	5	7	6	18	25	17
Izabal	18	5	6	7	20	24	16
Jalapa	18	6	3	9	16	22	15
Tipografia	18	3	9	6	16	23	15
Chiquimulilla	18	3	7	8	14	24	13

● *Continued overleaf*

LEAGUE TABLES

GOLDEN BOOT

Name	Goals
Rodax (Admira Wacker)	8
Zsak (Austria)	7
Mencual (Cannes)	4
Jacocvijevic (FC Nantes)	4
Pellegrini (Bellinzona)	4
Beat Sutter (Neuchâtel Xamas)	4
Persitine (Krems)	4
Manfreda (Lugano)	4

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FK Austria	5	4	1	0	11	3	9
Tirol	5	2	3	0	10	6	7
Admira	5	3	0	2	12	9	6
Austria S.	5	2	2	1	7	6	6
Rapid	5	2	1	2	11	10	5
First Vienna	5	1	3	1	11	12	5
Grazer AK	5	2	1	2	3	5	5
Sturm Graz	5	1	2	2	6	6	4
Vorwarts	5	1	2	2	8	10	4
Kremser	5	2	0	3	6	8	4
St. Pölten	5	1	1	3	6	9	3
Wiener SK	5	1	0	4	5	12	

ICELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valur	9	5	2	2	10	4	17
Fram	9	5	1	3	12	8	16
FH	9	4	3	2	13	9	15
KA	9	4	3	2	13	9	15
KR	9	4	3	2	15	12	15
IA	9	4	1	4	11	12	13
Thor	9	2	3	4	9	13	9
IBK	9	2	3	4	9	14	9
Vikingur	9	2	2	5	13	13	8
Filkyr	9	2	1	6	7	18	7

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayer U.	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Eintracht F.	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Kaiserslautern	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Bayern M.	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Bayer L.	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Stuttgart	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Köln	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Borussia D.	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Fortuna D.	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Hamburg	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Werder	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Waldof	2	1	0	1	4	5	2
Nurnberg	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Borussia MG.	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
St. Paul	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Karlsruhe	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Homburg	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Bochum	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Radnicki	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
Zeljeznicar	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Rijeka	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Dinamo Z.	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Red Star	2	1	0	1	7	3	2
Olimpia	2	1	1	0	5	3	2
Spartak	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Hajduk	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Rad	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Osijek	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Partizan	2	1	0	1	2	2	
Buducnost	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Vojvosina	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Vardar	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Borac	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Sarajevo	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Sloboda	2	0	1	1	1	6	0
Velez	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Vasily Rats

SOVIET UNION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak M	21	13	7	1	40	13	33
Dnepr	21	12	4	5	29	22	28
Zhalguiris	21	11	4	6	29	21	26
Torpedo	20	8	9	3	22	12	25
Kiev	19	8	7	4	22	14	23
Minsk	21	9	4	8	26	22	22
Metallist	20	8	6	6	22	19	22
Chernomorets	20	8	6	6	24	23	22
Moscow Dynamo	21	7	8	6	26	20	22
Rotor	20	6	6	8	18	21	18
Pamir	21	6	6	9	16	26	18
Ararat	21	6	4	11	18	30	16
Tbilisi	20	4	8	8	16	21	16
Shakhtjor	21	6	3	12	15	23	15
Zenit	22	3	7	12	14	36	13
Lokomotiv	21	3	5	13	10	26	11

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neuchâtel X.	4	4	0	0	12	6	8
Grasshoppers	4	2	2	0	4	2	6
Bellinzona	4	2	2	0	8	6	6
Servette	4	1	2	1	5	5	4
St. Gallen	4	0	4	0	4	4	4
Sion	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Aarau	4	1	1	2	4	4	3
Luzerne	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
Wettingen	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
Lugano	4	1	1	2	7	9	3
Lausanne	4	1	1	2	4	6	3
Young Boys	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuusysi	16	9	4	3	33	20	22
TPS	16	8	6	2	26	14	22
RoPS	16	7	6	3	30	16	20
Haka	16	8	4	4	25	17	20
KuPS	16	7	4	5	23	23	18
HJK	16	6	5	5	19	16	17
Reipas	16	6	4	6	36	28	16
MP	16	5	6	5	21	20	16
Ilves	16	6	3	7	24	24	15
OTP	16	4	4	8	15	30	12
Jaro	16	2	4	10	15	30	8
KePS	16	0	6	10	11	40	6

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OB	13	9	3	1	22	9	21
Brondby	13	8	3	2	25	12	19
Vejle	13	8	3	2	18	8	19
Lyngby	13	5	6	2	18	11	16
AGF	13	4	6	1	13	8	16
B 1903	13	3	7	3	13	12	13
AAB	13	3	6	4	13	16	12
Silkeborg	13	3	5	5	18	18	11
Herfolge	13	3	5	5	9	17	11
Naestved	13	2	6	5	13	17	10
Frem	12	3	3	6	11	15	9
Ikast	13	1	7	5	13	20	9
Bronshoj	12	3	2	7	13	25	8
B 1913	13	1	4	8	13	24	6

FAROES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B 71	9	5	4	0	14	5	14
HB	9	5	2	2	24	13	12
B 68	9	4	4	1	11	8	12
VB	9	5	1	3	17	10	11
KI	9	4	2	3	14	17	10
GI	9	4	1	4	12	14	9
B 36	9	4	0	5	18	18	8
SIF	9	3	2	4	10	14	8
IF	9	2	1	6	8	16	5
LIF	9	0	1	8	4	17	1

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruch Chorzow	3	3	0	0	9	0	8
Zaglebie Lubin	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
LKS Lodz	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
GKS Katowice	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Legia W.	3	1	2	0	5	3	4
Jagiellonia	3	1	2	0	3	1	4
Zaglebie S.	3	1	2	0	5	4	4
Zawisza	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
Olimpia P.	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Stal Mielec	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Lech Poznan	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Gornik Zabrze	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Wisla	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Motor Lublin	3	1	0	2	2	6	1
Slask Wroclaw	3	0	0	3	2	5	0
Widzew Lodz	3	0	0	3	1	8	1

UNITED STATES

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boston	18	12	6	24	14	34	
Albany	18	10	8	25	15	33	
Washington S.	17	11	6	15	12	29	
Maryland	16	7	9	19	24	20	
New Jersey	18	5	13	17	31	18	

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tampa Bay	18	11	7	27	18	32	
Washington D.	17	10	7	25	20	30	
Orlando	17	9	8	24	14	30	
Fort Lauderdale	17	9	7	23	22	26	
Miami	17	3	14	15	24	9	

WESTERN SOCCER LEAUE

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Francisco	16	11	5	35	24	98	
Portland	16	11	5	31	13	92	
Seattle	16	10	6	31	22	87	
Sacramento	16	3	13	20	42	40	

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Diego	16	12	4	28	16	99	
Los Angeles	16	10	6	33	19	81	
Santa Barbara	16	6	10	19	38	51	
Arizona	16	5	11	24	38	50	
California	16	5	11	35	29	42	

GUATEMALA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Municipal	19	10	6	3	37	21	26
Galcasa	20	10	5	5	27	17	25
Del Monte	20	7	10	3	21	16	24
Aurora	19	6	9	4	20	17	21
Comunicc.	20	6	9	5	23	23	21
Retalteca	20	6	8	6	21	26	20
Xelaju	20	6	7	7	17	21	19
Suchitepequez	20	6	6	8	22	27	18
Tip. Nacional	20	3	11	6	20	27	17
Jalapa	20	6	3	11	19	27	15
Chiquimulilla	20	3	9	8	18	26	15

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lillestrom	14	10	2	2	21	9	32
Rosenborg	14	8	3	3	31	19	27
Tromsö	14	7	3	4	20	11	24
Valerengen	14	7	2	5	22	20	23
Molde	14	7	2	5	22	20	23
Brann	14	6	2	6	16	20	20
Kongsvinger	14	5	4	6	18	17	19
Viking	14	5	3	6	22	19	18
Moss	14	4	5	6	18	20	17
Start	14	3	4	7	16	23	13
Mjölner	14	3	2	9	15	29	11
Sogndal	14	1	4	9	16	27	7

CANADA

EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toronto	13	10	2	1	25	9	22
Hamilton	13	8	2	3	29	14	18
North York	13	7	4	2	20	12	18
Ottawa	15	5	4	6	27	28	14
Montreal	12	2	1	9	11	25	5

WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vancouver	15	12	3	0	42	16	27
Calgary	16	6	1	9	23	34	13
Edmonton	15	5	1	9	23	37	11
Victoria	15	2	3	10	16	34	7
Winnipeg	15	1	5	9	19	36	7

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	4	3	1	0	7	1	7
Nantes	4	3	0	1	9	4	6
Marseille	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
Toulouse	4	2	1	1	7	6	5
Paris SG	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
Monaco	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Toulon	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Lyon	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Mulhouse	4	2	0	2	6	5	4
Sochaux	4	2	0	2	3	3	4
Brest	4	2	0	2	3	4	4
Cannes	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
Auxerre	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
Nice	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
St Etienne	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
Metz	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
Lille	4	1	1	2	2	5	3
Racing P.	4	1	1	2	4	11	3
Montpelier	4	1	0	3	6	7	2
Caen	4	1	0	3	4	7	2

Paul Ince — leading England Under-21s' charge.

1988-90 EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

18.10.88	Greece v Denmark	2-2
18.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	2-1
1.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-3
1.11.88	Rumania v Greece	2-0
25. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	6-0
25. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	1-0
16. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	3-0
16. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	2-1
10.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	
10.10.89	Bulgaria v Greece	
14.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	
14.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	12	4	6
Rumania	4	2	0	2	5	4	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	3	7	3
Denmark	4	1	1	2	6	11	3

Group 2

18.10.88	England v Sweden	1-1
18.10.88	Poland v Albania	0-0
4.11.88	Albania v Sweden	0-2
7. 3.89	Albania v England	0-2
25. 4.89	England v Albania	2-1
6. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	4-0
2. 6.89	England v Poland	2-1
5. 9.89	Sweden v England	
7.10.89	Sweden v Albania	
10.10.89	Poland v England	
24.10.89	Poland v Sweden	
14.11.89	Poland v Sweden	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	3	1	0	7	3	6
Sweden	3	2	1	0	7	1	5
Albania	4	0	1	3	1	6	1
Poland	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

Group 3

18.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-2
1.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-0
29.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-2
11. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	0-0
25. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	1-0
9. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	0-3
19. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	2-0
5. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	
6.10/ 7.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	
24.10.89	Turkey v Austria	
7.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	
14.11.89	Austria v East Germany	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
Austria	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
East Germany	4	1	1	2	4	4	3
Turkey	4	1	1	2	3	8	3

Group 4

30. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-3
13. 9.88	Iceland v Holland	1-1
28. 9.88	Finland v Iceland	2-1
18.10.88	West Germany v Holland	2-0
25. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	0-1
30. 5.89	Finland v Holland	1-1
31. 5.89	Iceland v West Germany	1-1
5. 9.89	Iceland v Finland	
3.10.89	West Germany v Finland	
10.10.89	Holland v Iceland	
25.10.89	West Germany v Iceland	
14.11.89	Holland v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	4	3	1	0	7	1	7
Finland	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
Iceland	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Holland	4	0	2	2	2	5	2

Group 5

13. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-1
27. 9.88	France v Norway	2-0
18.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	0-2
18.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	2-2
7. 3.89	Scotland v France	2-3
24. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	0-1
13. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	0-1
5. 9.89	Norway v France	
5. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	
10.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	
10.10.89	France v Scotland	
14.11.89	Scotland v Norway	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	4	3	1	0	6	2	7
France	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Scotland	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Norway	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

Group 6

11.12.88	Cyprus v Hungary	0-0
22. 3.89	Cyprus v Spain	0-1
12. 4.89	Hungary v Cyprus	1-0
31. 5.89	Spain v Cyprus	1-0
10.10.89	Hungary v Spain	
14.11.89	Spain v Hungary	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Hungary	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Cyprus	4	0	1	3	0	3	1

Group 7

15.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-3
14. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	1-1
5. 4.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	4-0
25. 4.89	Portugal v Luxembourg	1-0
29. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	1-1
26. 5.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-0
5. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	
5.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	
9.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	
24.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	
14.11.89	Portugal v Luxembourg	
29.11.89	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	1	3	0	5	2	5
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Portugal	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Luxembourg	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

Group 8

26. 4.89	Switzerland v Italy	0-0
6. 6.89	San Marino v Switzerland	0-5
4.10.89	San Marino v Italy	
25.10.89	Italy v Switzerland	
14.11.89	Switzerland v San Marino	
29.11.89	Italy v San Marino	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	5	0	3
Italy	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
San Marino	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

WORLD CUP RESULTS AND TABLES

EUROPE

GROUP 1

9.10.88	Greece v Denmark	1-1
19.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	1-3
2.11.88	Rumania v Greece	3-0
2.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-1
26. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	0-0
26. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	0-2
17. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	1-0
17. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	7-1
11.10.89	Bulgaria v Greece	
11.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	
15.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	
15.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Denmark	4	2	2	0	11	3	6
Greece	4	0	2	2	2	11	2
Bulgaria	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

GROUP 2

19.10.88	England v Sweden	0-0
19.10.88	Poland v Albania	1-0
5.11.88	Albania v Sweden	1-2
8. 3.89	Albania v England	0-2
26. 4.89	England v Albania	5-0
7. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	2-1
3. 6.89	England v Poland	3-0
6. 9.89	Sweden v England	
8.10.89	Sweden v Albania	
11.10.89	Poland v England	
25.10.89	Poland v Sweden	
15.11.89	Albania v Poland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	3	1	0	10	0	7
Sweden	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Poland	3	1	0	2	2	5	2
Albania	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

GROUP 3

31. 8.88	Iceland v Soviet Union	1-1
12.10.88	Turkey v Iceland	1-1
19.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-0
19.10.88	East Germany v Iceland	2-0
2.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-2
30.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-1
12. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	0-2
26. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	3-0
10. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	0-1
20. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	1-1
31. 5.89	Soviet Union v Iceland	1-1
14. 6.89	Iceland v Austria	0-0
23. 8.89	Austria v Iceland	
6. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	
6. 9.89	Iceland v East Germany	
20. 9.89	Iceland v Turkey	
25.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	
25.10.89	Turkey v Austria	
8.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	
15.11.89	Austria v East Germany	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	5	3	2	0	8	2	8
Turkey	5	2	1	2	8	6	5
Austria	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Iceland	5	0	4	1	3	5	4
East Germany	5	1	1	3	4	9	3

GROUP 4

31. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-4
14. 9.88	Holland v Wales	1-0
19.10.88	Wales v Finland	2-2
19.10.88	West Germany v Holland	0-0
26. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	1-1
31. 5.89	Wales v West Germany	0-0
31. 5.89	Finland v Holland	0-1
6. 9.89	Finland v Wales	
4.10.89	West Germany v Finland	
11.10.89	Wales v Holland	
15.11.89	West Germany v Wales	
15.11.89	Holland v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
W. Germany	4	1	3	0	5	1	5
Wales	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Finland	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

GROUP 5

14. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-2
28. 9.88	France v Norway	1-0
19.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	1-1
22.10.88	Cyprus v France	1-1
2.11.88	Cyprus v Norway	0-3
19.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	3-2
11.12.88	Yugoslavia v Cyprus	4-0
8. 2.89	Cyprus v Scotland	2-3
8. 3.89	Scotland v France	2-0
26. 4.89	Scotland v Cyprus	2-1
29. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	0-0
21. 5.89	Norway v Cyprus	3-1
14. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	1-2
5. 9.89	Norway v France	
6. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	
11.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	
11.10.89	France v Scotland	
28.10.89	Cyprus v Yugoslavia	
15.11.89	Scotland v Norway	
18.11.89	France v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	5	4	1	0	10	5	9
Yugoslavia	5	3	2	0	10	4	8
Norway	5	2	0	3	8	6	4
France	5	1	2	2	4	6	4
Cyprus	6	0	1	5	5	16	1

GROUP 6

21. 5.88	Northern Ireland v Malta	3-0
14. 9.88	Northern Ireland v Rep. Ireland	0-0
19.10.88	Hungary v Northern Ireland	1-0
16.11.88	Spain v Rep. Ireland	2-0
11.12.88	Malta v Hungary	2-2
21.12.88	Spain v Northern Ireland	4-0
22. 1.89	Malta v Spain	0-2
8. 2.89	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-2
8. 3.89	Hungary v Rep. Ireland	0-0
22. 3.89	Spain v Malta	4-0
12. 4.89	Hungary v Malta	1-1
26. 4.89	Malta v Northern Ireland	0-2
26. 4.89	Rep. Ireland v Spain	1-0
28. 5.89	Rep. Ireland v Malta	2-0
4. 6.89	Rep. Ireland v Hungary	2-0
6. 9.89	Northern Ireland v Hungary	
11.10.89	Hungary v Spain	
11.10.89	Rep. Ireland v Northern Ireland	
15.11.89	Spain v Hungary	
15.11.89	Malta v Rep. Ireland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	5	0	1	14	1	10
Rep. Ireland	6	3	2	1	5	2	8
Hungary	5	1	3	1	4	5	5
Northern Ireland	6	2	1	3	5	7	5
Malta	5	0	2	3	3	9	2

GROUP 7

1. 9.88	Luxembourg v Switzerland	1-4
19.10.88	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	0-2
19.10.88	Belgium v Switzerland	1-0
16.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-0
16.11.88	Portugal v Luxembourg	1-0
15. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	1-1
26. 4.89	Portugal v Switzerland	3-1
30. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	2-1
19. 5.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	4-0
1. 6.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-5
7. 6.89	Switzerland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
6. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	
20. 9.89	Switzerland v Portugal	
6.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	
11.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	
11.10.89	Switzerland v Belgium	
25.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Switzerland	
25.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	
15.11.89	Portugal v Czechoslovakia	
15.11.89	Switzerland v Luxembourg	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	5	3	2	0	9	2	8
Czechoslovakia	5	3	2	0	8	2	7
Portugal	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Switzerland	4	1	0	3	5	6	2
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	1	16	0

Winners and runners-up from groups 3, 5, 6 and 7 qualify for the finals along with the winners of groups 1, 2 and 4 plus the two runners-up from groups 1, 2, and 4 with the best comparative records.

AFRICA

ROUND 1

7. 8.88	Angola v Sudan	0-0
11.11.88	Sudan v Angola	1-2
	Angola 2-1 on agg	
	Zimbabwe w/o v Lesotho	
	Zambia w/o v Rwanda (withdrew)	
16. 7.88	Uganda v Malawi	1-0
30. 7.88	Malawi v Uganda	3-1
	Malawi 3-2 on agg	
3. 6.89	Libya v Burkino Faso	3-0
3. 7.89	Burkino Faso v Libya	2-0
	Libya 3-2 on agg	
7. 8.88	Ghana v Liberia	0-0
21. 8.88	Liberia v Ghana	2-0
	Liberia 2-0 on agg	
5. 8.88	Tunisia v Guinea	5-0
21. 8.88	Guinea v Tunisia	3-0
	Tunisia 5-3 on agg	
	Gabon w/o v Togo	

ROUND 2

Group A

6. 1.89	Algeria v Zimbabwe	3-0
22. 1.89	Zimbabwe v Ivory Coast	0-0
11. 6.89	Ivory Coast v Algeria	0-0
25. 6.89	Zimbabwe v Algeria	1-2
13. 8.89	Ivory Coast v Zimbabwe	5-0
25. 8.89	Algeria v Ivory Coast	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Ivory Coast	3	1	2	0	5	0	4
Zimbabwe	4	0	1	3	1	10	1

Libya withdrew

Group B

6. 1.89	Egypt v Liberia	2-0
7. 1.89	Kenya v Malawi	1-1
21. 1.89	Malawi v Egypt	1-1
22. 1.89	Liberia v Kenya	0-0
10. 6.89	Kenya v Egypt	0-0
11. 6.89	Liberia v Malawi	1-0
24. 6.89	Malawi v Kenya	1-0
25. 6.89	Liberia v Egypt	1-0
11. 8.89	Egypt v Malawi	1-0
12. 8.89	Kenya v Liberia	1-0
25. 8.89	Egypt v Kenya	
26. 8.89	Malawi v Liberia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	5	2	2	1	4	2	6
Liberia	5	2	1	2	2	3	5
Kenya	5	1	3	1	2	2	5
Malawi	5	1	2	2	3	4	4

Group C

7. 1.89	Nigeria v Gabon	1-0
8. 1.89	Cameroon v Angola	1-1
22. 1.89	Gabon v Cameroon	1-3
22. 1.89	Angola v Nigeria	2-2
10. 6.89	Nigeria v Cameroon	2-0
10. 6.89	Angola v Gabon	2-0
25. 6.89	Angola v Cameroon	1-2
25. 6.89	Gabon v Nigeria	2-1
12. 8.89	Nigeria v Angola	1-0
13. 8.89	Cameroon v Gabon	2-1
27. 8.89	Cameroon v Nigeria	
27. 8.89	Gabon v Angola	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	5	3	1	1	7	4	7
Cameroon	5	3	1	1	8	6	7
Angola	5	1	2	2	6	6	4
Gabon	5	1	0	4	4	9	2

Group D

8. 1.89	Morocco v Zambia	1-0
8. 1.89	Zaire v Tunisia	3-1
22. 1.89	Tunisia v Morocco	2-1
22. 1.89	Zambia v Zaire	4-2
11. 6.89	Zaire v Morocco	0-0
11. 6.89	Zambia v Tunisia	1-0
25. 6.89	Zambia v Morocco	2-1
25. 6.89	Tunisia v Zaire	1-0
13. 8.89	Morocco v Tunisia	0-0
13. 8.89	Zaire v Zambia	1-0
25. 8.89	Tunisia v Zambia	
27. 8.89	Morocco v Zaire	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	5	3	0	2	7	5	6
Zaire	5	2	1	2	6	6	5
Tunisia	5	2	1	2	4	5	5
Morocco	5	1	2	2	3	4	4

Chile's Roberto Rojas couldn't stop Brazil

ROUND 3

Winners Gp 1 v Winners Gp 2; Winners Gp 3 v Winners Gp 4. Aggregate winning teams qualify for the finals.

ASIA

WEST ASIA

Group 1: Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar.

6. 1.89	Qatar v Jordan	1-0
6. 1.89	Oman v Iraq	1-1
13. 1.89	Oman v Qatar	0-0
13. 1.89	Jordan v Iraq	0-1
20. 1.89	Jordan v Oman	2-0
20. 1.89	Qatar v Iraq	1-0
27. 1.89	Jordan v Qatar	1-1
27. 1.89	Iraq v Oman	3-1
3. 2.89	Qatar v Oman	3-0
3. 2.89	Iraq v Jordan	4-0
10. 2.89	Oman v Jordan	0-2
10. 2.89	Iraq v Qatar	2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar	6	3	3	0	8	3	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	5	8
Jordan	6	2	1	3	5	7	5
Oman	6	0	2	4	2	11	2

Group 2 (Bahrain withdrew)

10. 3.89	Yemen AR v Syria	0-1
15. 3.89	Saudi Arabia v Syria	5-4
20. 3.89	Yemen AR v Saudi Arabia	0-1
25. 3.89	Syria v Yemen AR	2-0
30. 3.89	Syria v Saudi Arabia	0-0
5. 4.89	Saudi Arabia v Yemen AR	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S. Arabia	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Syria	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Yemen AR	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Pakistan (RP 'South' Yemen withdrew).

6. 1.89	Pakistan v Kuwait	0-1
13. 1.89	Kuwait v UAE	3-2
20. 1.89	UAE v Pakistan	5-0
27. 1.89	Kuwait v Pakistan	2-0
3. 2.89	UAE v Kuwait	1-0
10. 2.89	Pakistan v UAE	1-4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	4	3	0	1	12	4	6
Kuwait	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Pakistan	4	0	0	4	1	2	0

EAST ASIA

Group 4: (India withdrew so Nepal switched from Group 5)

Following matches all in S. Korea:

23. 5.89	Malaysia v Nepal	2-0
23. 5.89	Singapore v S. Korea	0-3
25. 5.89	Malaysia v Singapore	1-0
25. 5.89	Nepal v S. Korea	0-9
27. 5.89	Singapore v Nepal	3-0
27. 5.89	S. Korea v Malaysia	3-0

Following matches all in Singapore:

3. 6.89	Singapore v Malaysia	2-2
3. 6.89	S. Korea v Nepal	4-0
5. 6.89	Malaysia v S. Korea	0-3
5. 6.89	Nepal v Singapore	0-7
7. 6.89	Singapore v S. Korea	0-3
7. 6.89	Malaysia v Nepal	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	6	6	0	0	25	0	12
Malaysia	6	3	1	2	8	8	7
Singapore	6	2	1	3	12	9	5
Nepal	6	0	0	6	0	28	0

Group 5

20. 2.89	Thailand v Bangladesh	1-0
23. 2.89	China v Bangladesh	2-0
23. 2.89	Thailand v Iran	0-3
27. 2.89	Bangladesh v Iran	1-2
28. 2.89	Thailand v China	0-3
4. 3.89	Bangladesh v China	0-2
8. 3.89	Bangladesh v Thailand	3-1
17. 3.89	Iran v Bangladesh	1-0
30. 5.89	Iran v Thailand	3-0
15. 7.89	China v Iran	2-0
22. 7.89	Iran v China	3-2
29. 7.89	China v Thailand	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	6	5	0	1	13	3	10
Iran	6	5	0	1	12	7	10
Bangladesh	6	1	0	5	4	9	2
Thailand	6	1	0	5	2	14	2

Group 6

21. 5.89	Indonesia v N. Korea	0- 0
21. 5.89	Hong Kong v Japan	0-0
27. 5.89	Hong Kong v N. Korea	1-2
28. 5.89	Indonesia v Japan	0-0
4. 6.89	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
4. 6.89	Japan v N. Korea	2-1
11. 6.89	Japan v Indonesia	5-0
18. 6.89	Japan v Hong Kong	0-0
25. 6.89	Indonesia v Hong Kong	3-2
25. 6.89	N. Korea v Japan	2-0
2. 7.89	N. Korea v Hong Kong	4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	5	3	1	1	9	4	7
Japan	6	2	3	1	7	3	7
Hong Kong	6	0	3	3	5	10	3
Indonesia	5	1	3	1	4	8	3

Winners of all groups play off in a mini-league in Singapore in October with top two teams qualifying for the finals.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Round 1

19. 6.88	Antigua v Neth. Antilles	0-1
29. 7.88	Neth. Antilles v Antigua	3-1
	Neth. Antilles 4-1 on agg, aet	
12. 5.88	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	1-0
29. 5.88	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	1-2
	Jamaica 3-1 on agg	
17. 4.88	Guyana v Trinidad/Tobago	0-4
8. 5.88	Trinidad/Tobago v Guyana	1-0
	Trinidad/Tobago 5-0 on agg	
17. 7.88	Costa Rica v Panama	1-1
31. 7.88	Panama v Costa Rica	0-2
	Costa Rica 3-1 on agg	
30. 4.88	Cuba v Guatemala	0-1
15. 5.88	Guatemala v Cuba	1-1
	Guatemala 2-1 on agg	

Round Two

1.10.88	Neth. Antilles v El Salvador	0-1
16.10.88	El Salvador v Neth. Antilles	5-0
	El Salvador 6-0 on agg	
30.10.88	Trinidad/Tobago v Honduras	0-0
13.11.88	Honduras v Trinidad/Tobago	1-1
	Trinidad/Tobago on away goal: 1-1 agg	
24. 7.88	Jamaica v United States	0-0
13. 8.88	United States v Jamaica	5-1
	United States 5-1 on agg	
9.10.88	Guatemala v Canada	1-0
15.10.88	Canada v Guatemala	3-2
	Guatemala on away goals: 3-3 agg	
	Costa Rica w/o v Mexico	

Round Three

19. 3.89	Guatemala v Costa Rica	1-0
2. 4.89	Costa Rica v Guatemala	2-1
16. 4.89	Costa Rica v United States	1-0
30. 4.89	United States v Costa Rica	1-0
13. 5.89	United States v Trin/Tobago	1-1
28. 5.89	Trin/Tobago v Costa Rica	1-1
11. 6.89	Costa Rica v Trin/Tobago	1-0
17. 6.89	United States v Guatemala	2-1
25. 6.89	El Salvador v Costa Rica	2-4
16. 7.89	Costa Rica v El Salvador	1-0
30. 7.89	Trin/Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
13. 8.89	El Salvador v Trin/Tobago	
20. 8.89	Guatemala v Trin/Tobago	
3. 9.89	Trin/Tobago v Guatemala	
17. 9.89	El Salvador v United States	
8.10.89	Guatemala v United States	
5.11.89	United States v El Salvador	
19.11.89	Trin/Tobago v United States	
19.11.89	Guatemala v El Salvador	
26.11.89	El Salvador v Guatemala	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	8	5	1	2	10	6	11
United States	5	3	1	1	6	4	7
Guatemala	4	1	0	3	4	6	2
Trin/Tobago	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
El Salvador	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

Note: Top two qualify for finals.

OCEANIA

Round 1

11.12.88	Taiwan v New Zealand	0-4
18.12.88	New Zealand v Taiwan	4-1
	New Zealand 8-1 on agg	
26.11.88	Fiji v Australia	1-0
3.12.88	Australia v Fiji	5-1
	Australia 5-2 on agg	

Round 2

5. 3.89	Israel v New Zealand	1-0
12. 3.89	Australia v New Zealand	4-1
19. 3.89	Israel v Australia	1-1
2. 4.89	New Zealand v Australia	2-0
9. 4.89	New Zealand v Israel	2-2
16. 4.89	Australia v Israel	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	4	1	3	0	5	4	5
Australia	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
N. Zealand	4	1	1	2	5	7	3

Israel play winners of S. America Gp 2 for place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

20. 8.89	Bolivia v Peru	2-0
27. 8.89	Peru v Uruguay	
3. 9.89	Bolivia v Uruguay	
10. 9.89	Peru v Bolivia	
17. 9.89	Uruguay v Bolivia	
24. 9.89	Uruguay v Peru	

Group 2

20. 8.89	Colombia v Ecuador	2-0
27. 8.89	Paraguay v Colombia	
3. 9.89	Ecuador v Colombia	
10. 9.89	Paraguay v Ecuador	
24. 9.89	Colombia v Paraguay	
1.10.89	Ecuador v Paraguay	

Group 3

30. 7.89	Venezuela v Brazil	0-4
6. 8.89	Venezuela v Chile	1-3
13. 8.89	Chile v Brazil	1-1
20. 8.89	Brazil v Venezuela	6-1
27. 8.89	Chile v Venezuela	
3. 9.89	Brazil v Chile	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	11	1	5
Chile	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Venezuela	3	0	0	1	3	13	0

Winners of Groups 1 and 3 qualify for the finals. Winners of Gp 2 play off against Oceania section winners for place in the finals.

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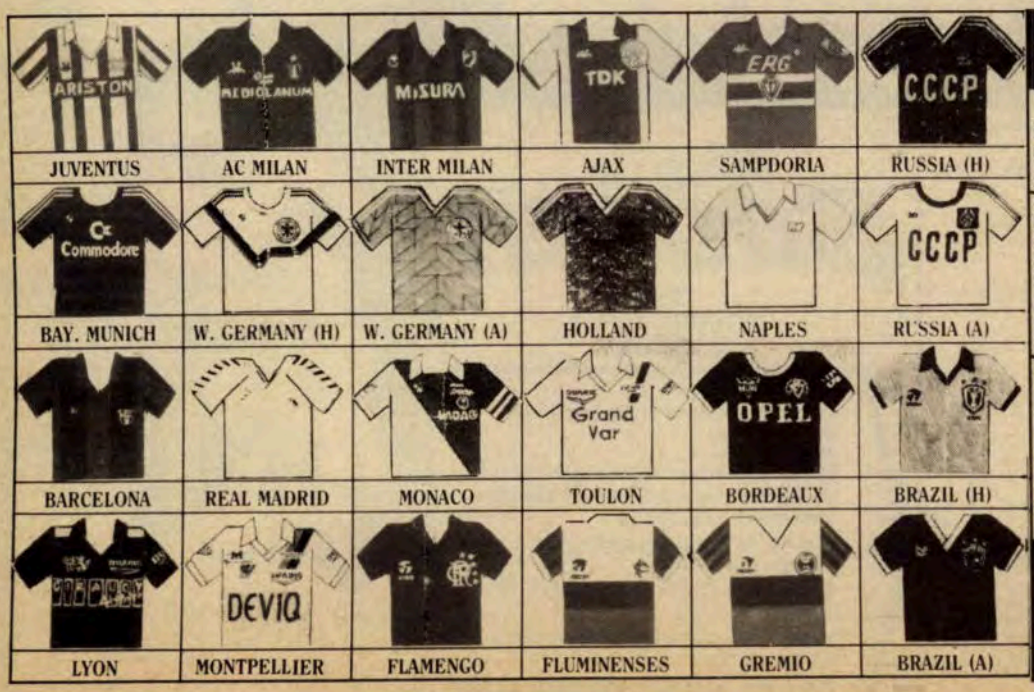

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